

FREE  
GUIDE

# 2003 Guide to NSW National Parks

**Discover, explore,  
experience ...**

- 193 parks and reserves
- highlights and activities
- how to get there
- Aboriginal art and culture
- camping and bushwalks
- wheelchair access





# Contents

Welcome to this year's guide, your first step to exploring parks and reserves in your area or around the state. Maps of New South Wales and each region will help you find the park you're looking for, and individual entries for 193 protected areas outline what you can see and do and how to get there. Wander through a rainforest, ride a white-water river, stroll along an unspoiled beach or enjoy a little open space in one of the city parks — there's a park to suit you.

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Full map of NSW showing park locations

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## Northern Rivers

The north-eastern corner of NSW is famous for rainforests, long sandy beaches and the vast extinct volcano centred around Mount Warning.



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## New England Tablelands

In the north of the state on a high plateau, the tablelands are an area of wild rivers, tall forests and granite gorges.



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## Hunter & Mid North Coast

This region stretches inland more than 100 km, encompassing some of Australia's largest coastal waterways, huge rolling dunes, rainforest wilderness, sheer cliffs and plunging waterfalls.



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## Sydney & Surrounds

From Sydney Harbour to the World Heritage Blue Mountains National Park, Sydney's parks and reserves offer a diverse range of bushland, walks and wonderful views.



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## South Coast & Highlands

The parks of the southern escarpment stretch in an almost unbroken line from Nowra to the Victorian border. Coastal parks protect waterways and estuaries, while further inland Australia's largest alpine area offers mountain wilderness and winter snowfields.



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## Central NSW

The centre of the state features intriguing rock formations, old goldmining areas and islands of rugged bush in the middle of farm lands.



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## Outback NSW

Lakes, rivers and spectacular gorges relieve the outback's stark desert landscape, and the region is rich in Aboriginal and colonial cultural sites.



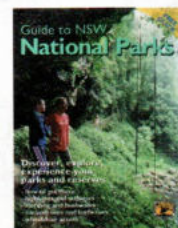
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Every effort has been made to ensure that information in this guide is accurate at the time of printing. The NPWS welcomes suggestions for correction and improvement. Write to: The Publications Manager, Education and Community Programs, NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service, PO Box 1967, Hurstville NSW 2220. The NPWS cannot accept responsibility for any errors or omissions.

Note that all fees mentioned in this guide are correct as at November 2002 but may be subject to change.

Our cover photo: Behind Crystal Shower Falls, Dorrigo National Park (Craig Fardell/NPWS).

Illustrations: Yellow-bellied glider, eastern horseshoe bat (A. Bowman); Green and golden bell frog, little penguin, bogong moth, platypus, Caley's grevillea, short-beaked echidna, yellow-billed spoonbill, triggerplant (A. Bowman/NPWS); Wolllemi pine (Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney); all others W. Jennings/NPWS.





# Get the facts



## Any questions?

Call the National Parks Centre on 1300 361 967 ...

Where's a good spot for a family picnic? Where can I go camping? Which annual pass is best for me? Ask the friendly staff at the National Parks Centre for information about:

- national parks across NSW
- the full range of National Parks and Wildlife Service annual passes
- Discovery walks, talks and tours
- native animals and plants.

Situated in the heart of The Rocks in Sydney, the centre has a large range of maps, books and gifts for sale, as well as free brochures and other information on national parks. Look for other NPWS visitor centres across NSW throughout this guide.

Fax: 9251 9192

Email: [info@npws.nsw.gov.au](mailto:info@npws.nsw.gov.au)

Address: 102 George Street,  
The Rocks, Sydney

Open 9 am to 5 pm Monday to Friday, and  
9.30 am to 4.30 pm Saturday & Sunday.  
Closed Christmas day and Good Friday.



## Information boxes dotted through this guide cover all sorts of special interests:

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## Or try our website [www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au](http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au)

In early 2003, we're launching a whole new website. New features to help you plan your next NSW national parks visit will include:

- lots of information on many of the state's popular parks, including walking tracks, camping grounds, picnic/barbecue areas, suggested car, 4WD and cycling routes, and information on activities from birdwatching to adventure recreation;
- simple maps of every park and reserve in NSW;

- plenty of details about the plants, animals, history and culture of our more popular parks;
- special searches for finding the park, camp site or walking track that's just right for you;
- regularly updated information on bushfires, fire bans and area closures; and
- Discovery walks, talks and tours.

So when you're planning your holidays, start with the national parks website.

## Symbols used in this guide

	Aboriginal site		Fishing		Swimming
	Accommodation		Historic site		Toilets
	Barbecue		Kiosk		Walking tracks
	Boat ramp		Picnic area		Wheelchair access
	Cabins		Public transport		World Heritage
	Camping area		Scuba diving		Vehicle entry fee
	Caravan site		Showers		

## \$ Vehicle entry fees

Vehicle entry fees apply to only 44 of the more than 600 national parks and reserves in NSW. These fees make a contribution to building, maintaining and enhancing facilities in national parks and reserves and to funding conservation projects. An entry pass must be displayed on your vehicle while you're in the park or else you may be fined. Some parks have self-registration boxes, or coin-operated 'pay and display' machines, so you'll need to bring the right change — call ahead to check. If you're a regular national parks visitor, you can save money on vehicle entry fees by purchasing an annual pass — see page 62 for details.



Abbreviations	HS — Historic Site
NP — National Park	AA — Aboriginal Area
NR — Nature Reserve	MP — Marine Park
SCA — State Conservation Area	RP — Regional Park

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## Central NSW

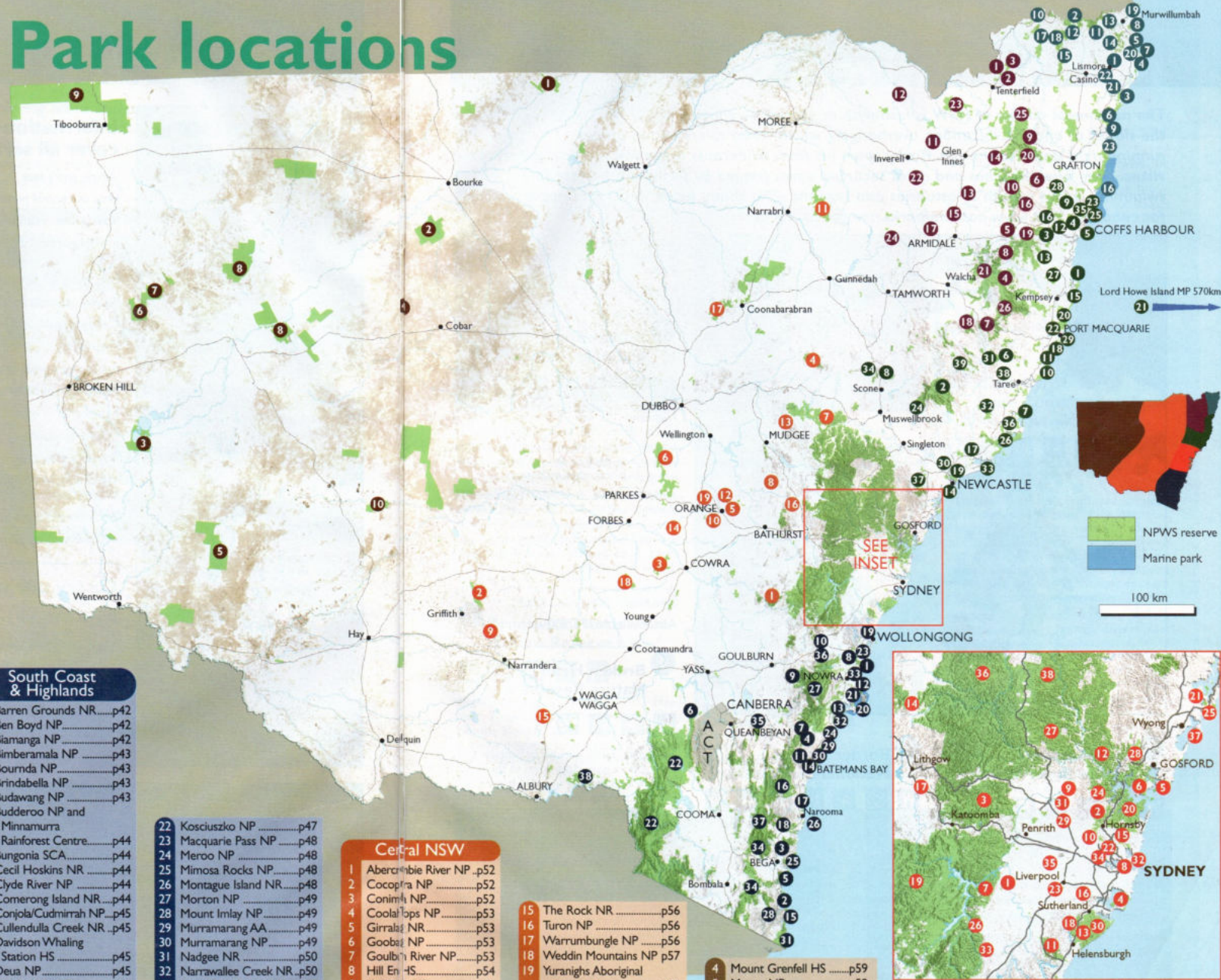
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**Note:** The maps in this publication are intended as a guide to NPWS protected areas only — they're not road maps, so pick up a proper map before setting out for your destination.



# Northern Rivers



*The north-east corner of NSW is lush with rainforest — clinging to the slopes of ancient volcanoes, overhanging white-water rivers and in places running right down to the sea. Rocky spurs jut from wilderness areas to provide uninterrupted vistas. Long open beaches and quiet secluded coves fringed by forest are perfect for swimming, and a wealth of estuaries and lagoons offer shady picnic spots and opportunities for canoeing. Visit [www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/north](http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/north)*



## 1 Boatharbour Nature Reserve 24 ha



**Highlights** Once a base camp for timber-cutters working in the 'Big Scrub' area, you can still see the pilings of the old wharf used to load river boats with timber. Today, a peaceful picnic area nestles between rainforest and the river.

**Activities** A paved, wheelchair-accessible walking track leads to the reserve's viewing platform over the junction of Wilson River and Coopers Creek. An information display provides further insight into the history of the area.

**Access** 6 km north-east of Lismore along Bangalow Road. \$6 vehicle entry fee.

Alstonville, 6627 0200

Northern Rivers

## 2 Border Ranges National Park 31,683 ha



**Highlights** A World Heritage rainforest park on the rim of a vast, ancient volcano. Pinnacle Lookout offers views of Mt Warning, the escarpment and all the way to the coast. The park is a haven to native fauna such as Alberts lyrebird and the pouched frog.

**Activities** Explore tall forests, waterfalls and gorges on the walking track network. The spectacular Tweed Scenic Drive (unsealed, but suitable for 2WD when dry) loops from Murwillumbah to Kyogle and Lismore. There's car-based camping at Sheep Station Creek or Forest Tops (short walk from carpark; camping fees apply), and opportunities for extended backpack camping treks.

**Access** 38 km west of Murwillumbah off Summerland Way or Kyogle Road. Unsealed roads. Vehicle entry fee of \$6 per day.

Kyogle, 6632 0000

## 3 Broadwater National Park 4204 ha



**Highlights** The main attraction is 8 km of beach, dunes and sand ridges backed by coastal heath and wetlands. In spring, honeyeaters flock to the golden bush peas, sun orchids and other wildflowers.

**Activities** Take the Salty Lagoon walk through undisturbed salt marsh, swamp forest and 60,000-year-old dunes. The picnic area and lookout off the Broadwater-Evans Head Road provide views of the park's diverse vegetation.

**Access** 3 km north of Evans Head via the Broadwater-Evans Head Road.

Alstonville, 6627 0200

## 4 Broken Head Nature Reserve 98 ha



**Highlights** Gullies shielded by banksias allow rainforest to grow right down to the beach. Shallow bays provide secluded beaches and excellent fishing, and in winter this is a great spot for whale watching.

### Superb lyrebird

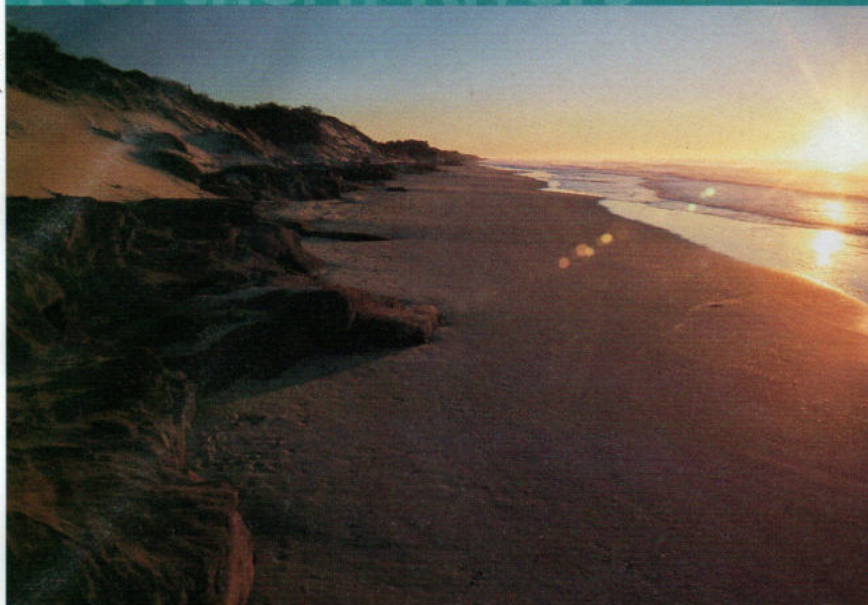
In the theatre of the forest floor, few can match the talents of the male superb lyrebird. Like all lyrebirds, he can mimic almost any sound — including other birds and animals, whistles, car alarms and even chainsaws. To add to the performance, he fans his lyre-shaped tail over his head to attract females. The superb lyrebird is found along the NSW coast and into Victoria and Queensland.



Any questions call 1300 361 967



# Northern Rivers



A section of Bundjalung National Park's 38 km of coastline.

**Activities** Take the track from the Broken Head council caravan park along the clifftop to Kings Beach. Enjoy the view, or stop for a swim at Broken Head or Whites beach. In season, you can fish for bream, mullet, tailor and a variety of rock fish.

**Access** 4 km south of Byron Bay off Coast Road.

Alstonville, 6627 0200

## 5 Brunswick Heads Nature Reserve 204 ha



**Highlights** Along with Broken Head and Tyagarah, the Brunswick Heads Nature Reserve forms a vital stepping stone for migrating birds. Species from north and south-east Australia overlap here, providing unusually diverse plant and animal communities.

**Activities** Relax with a quiet picnic, a bushwalk or a spot of river fishing. A short walk from the carpark takes in the rare coastal rainforest and opens onto the breakwater on the north bank of the Brunswick River. Follow the path back along the river.

**Access** 20 km north of Byron Bay at Brunswick Heads, just off the Pacific Highway.

North: Murwillumbah 6672 6360

South: Alstonville, 6627 0200

## 6 Bundjalung National Park 20,116 ha



**Highlights** Ten Mile Beach forms part of Bundjalung's 38 km of protected coastline. The Esk River, the largest untouched coastal river system on the north coast, runs through

the southern half of the park. Other features include freshwater lagoons, mangrove mudflats and rare rainforests at Woody Head.

**Activities** The beach and waterways suit surfing, fishing, canoeing and swimming. 4WD beach access is available from Shark Bay to the Black Rocks camping area (unsealed roads to camping area but suitable for 2WD). Camping and cabin accommodation is available at Woody Head (bookings phone 6646 6134). Camping fees apply.

**Access** 50 km south of Ballina, 60 km north of Grafton off the Pacific Highway on Iluka Road. \$6 per day vehicle entry fee.

North: Alstonville, 6627 0200

South: Grafton, 6641 1500

## 7 Cape Byron State Conservation Area 99 ha



**Highlights** The Cape's lighthouse has stood on the most easterly point of the Australian mainland for a century, and today you can take a tour of the tower. The rugged headland, surrounded by sheltered rainforest gullies and subtropical waters, is a great spot for watching turtles, dolphins and humpback whales on their annual migration.

**Activities** The magnificent clifftop walking track winds its way through diverse plant communities, offering panoramic views of the ocean and north coast hinterland. Tour Cape Byron Lighthouse (phone 6685 8565 for bookings) or you can even stay the night in the lighthouse keeper's quarters (bookings essential, phone 6685 6552).

**Access** 2 km east of Byron Bay along Lighthouse Road. \$5 vehicle entry fee to the Cape Byron Lighthouse precinct — fee also applies to NPWS annual pass holders.

Byron Bay, 6685 8565

## Help us control pests

Some plants and animals, like lantana and foxes, have been introduced to Australia and become pests in the wild. They can cause severe damage to national parks and reserves. National parks and reserves are there to conserve our uniquely Australian natural and cultural heritage, and pests need to be managed or removed. The NPWS has hundreds of pest control programs involving baiting and trapping feral animals, manual weeding and spraying herbicides. The bushland around your town is also valuable habitat for native fauna and flora.

Here are some ways you can help:

- Don't dump unwanted animals, such as kittens, dogs and chickens, in the bush.
- Make sure your pet cats and dogs are de-sexed.

- Keep your cats and dogs indoors at night, especially at dusk and dawn because that's when many native animals are active.
- Look out for pests that may be new to your area, such as cane toads and fire ants, and report sightings to the NPWS.
- Don't dump garden wastes such as weeds, grass clippings and prunings in the bush.
- Help protect the bush in your area by joining a landcare or bush regeneration group.
- Seeds from some garden plants can be carried long distances by birds, the wind or stormwater and become weeds in the natural environment. Try to choose plants that won't become weed problems in the future.



## 8 Cudgen Nature Reserve

671 ha



**Highlights** Sea turtles have been recorded nesting on the beach and a small population of koalas inhabits the forest around the lake and the Round Mountain area. The lagoon, coastal rainforest and heathland offer a wintering spot for birds, bats and flying-foxes and the beach and dunes make for a pleasant swim.

**Activities** The picnic area beside Cudgen Lake offers free electric barbecues and opportunities for canoeing and swimming. Enjoy a walk beside the lake with the backdrop of Mt Warning to the west.

**Access** 20 km east of Murwillumbah on Clothiers Creek Road off the Pacific Highway.

Murwillumbah, 6672 6360

## 10 Iluka Nature Reserve

136 ha



**Highlights** This tiny treasure — home to a superb range of birdlife — is a small but very valuable remnant of what was once an extensive coastal rainforest. The reserve is an important part of a coastal network of parks that includes Broadwater, Bundjalung and Yuraygir national parks.

**Activities** Strolling the level (wheelchair-accessible) 2.5 km walk from Iluka Bluff to Iluka is the best way to see the park's tall canopy of riberry and lilly pilly trees, intertwined with strangler figs.



Looking out over Wollumbin, Mount Warning National Park.

**Access** Located in Iluka, on Iluka Road off the Pacific Highway. The reserve can be reached via Iluka village from Long Street or the Iluka Bluff picnic area.

Grafton, 6641 1500

## 9 Koreelah National Park

5270 ha



**Highlights** Pockets of World Heritage-listed rainforest hug steep slopes below Acacia Plateau and Wilsons Peak. Keep an eye out for the endangered Coxen's fig-parrot or the threatened brush-tailed rock-wallaby.

**Activities** There's a pleasant car-based camping spot (fees apply) at the small grassy

area beside Koreelah Creek (unsealed road but suitable for 2WD in dry weather).

**Access** 30 km west of Woodenbong on White Swamp Road (unsealed) off Summerland Way at Old Koreelah.

Kyogle, 6632 0000

### Eastern horseshoe bat

Caves are the usual home of this tiny bat — about 80 mm from top to tail — but it will also settle in derelict buildings. When roosting it controls its body temperature by sleeping with its wings close to its body to retain heat, or away from its body to lose heat. It's found along the east coast of Australia.



## Staying safe in national parks

It's always great to escape city life and go bushwalking, picnicking or driving in national parks and reserves. However, they are natural environments, so you need to take some precautions:

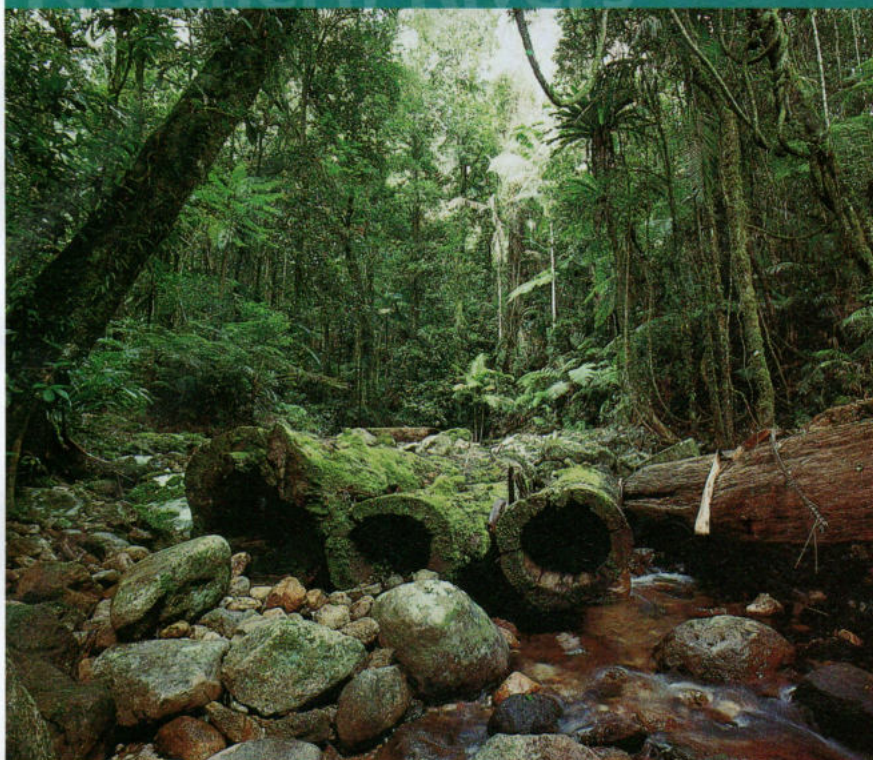
- Check the conditions in the park before you go (see contact numbers on the back cover or individual park entries), and tell someone where you're going.
- Obey all park signs and any instructions from a park officer.
- Supervise children closely.
- Keep to tracks and stay behind safety fences.
- Be on the lookout for falling branches and rocks, uneven or slippery surfaces, and cliff edges.
- Don't feed or touch native animals.
- Wear closed footwear — preferably boots or runners.
- Take a topographic map and compass and know how to use them.

- Bring extra clothing and a raincoat, as the weather can turn very quickly.
- Take essential supplies, including first aid kit, torch, matches, and plenty of food and water. For camping take a good tent and a sleeping bag appropriate to the conditions.
- Go in a group of three or more so that in an emergency one person can go for help while another stays with the injured or ill person.
- Before swimming, check the water depth, current and temperature — never dive or jump as there may be hidden logs or rocks.
- Many parks have limited or unpredictable mobile phone coverage, so if you intend to use a mobile for safety purposes contact your phone network supplier to check the coverage in the park you want to visit.

For more safety tips see pages 25, 32, 47 and 59.



# Northern Rivers



Terania Creek, Nightcap National Park.

## 11 Mebbin National Park 3800 ha



**Highlights** Mebbin shares its western boundary with Border Ranges National Park and forms part of the rim of the Mt Warning volcano. It's made up of dry eucalypt and rainforest, with a small section of old-growth forest.

**Activities** You can picnic in the refurbished historic forestry hut, and car-based camping (fees apply) is available in the Mebbin rest area (unsealed road but suitable for 2WD). From here you can take a 450 metre walking track through subtropical rainforest — including a stand of ancient figs — ending at Byrrell Creek.

**Access** 32 km south-west of Murwillumbah on Byrrell Creek Road (unsealed) off Tyalgum Road. \$6 per day vehicle entry fee.

Murwillumbah, 6672 6360

## 12 Moore Park Nature Reserve 15 ha



**Highlights** This park protects one of the last remnants of 'Boys Scrub'. Several stands of gallery rainforest, including black bean and silky oak, provide habitat for a large colony of grey-headed flying-foxes and endangered black flying-foxes.

**Activities** Do a little bushwalking or birdwatching, or stop for a barbecue or quiet picnic beside the upper reaches of the Richmond River.

**Access** 26 km north-west of Kyogle off the Summerland Way near Old Grevillia.

Kyogle, 6632 0000

## 13 Mount Warning National Park 2379 ha



**Highlights** Mt Warning, the heart of this World Heritage-listed park, is the remnant central plug of an ancient volcano. Known as Wollumbin to the local Bundjalung people, Mt Warning is a place of great significance in cultural law and spiritual education.

**Activities** Under Bundjalung law, only certain people can climb Wollumbin, so consider choosing to respect their heritage. The track is a steep 9 km return trip, with a challenging rock scramble at the end. As an alternative, enjoy a stroll along the 200 metre Lyrebird Track or a picnic at Korrumbyn picnic area. Car-based and caravan camping is available at a privately run caravan park in the area.

**Access** 12 km south-west of Murwillumbah off Kyogle Road.

Murwillumbah,  
6672 6360

## 14 Nightcap National Park 8080 ha



**Highlights** The lush World Heritage rainforest of Nightcap National Park was preserved by a determined group of conservationists. The Mt Nardi and Minyon Falls areas are easily available by car and offer breathtaking views.

**Activities** The picnic area near the awesome 100 metre Minyon Falls provides a great start to the 30 km Whian Whian Forest Drive (unsealed). There are a range of short to medium tracks for the experienced walker, or take the shaded 1.4 km return walk from the Terania Creek picnic area (accessible by unsealed roads) to the breathtaking Protestors Falls. Swimming is not permitted at the falls. No fires are permitted in the park; portable fuel stoves only.

**Access** 35 km north of Lismore. Whian Whian Forest Drive (unsealed) is off the Lismore – Mullumbimby road.

Alstonville, 6627 0200

## 15 Richmond Range National Park 15,420 ha



**Highlights** The extensive old-growth forest and World Heritage-listed rainforest, including the rare Richmond Range spotted gum, provide habitats for a huge range of native fauna.

**Activities** The Cambridge Plateau Scenic Drive runs the length of the southern half of the park, providing ready access to rainforest scenery (unsealed but suitable for 2WD in dry weather; caravans not advisable). Car-based camping is available at Peacock Creek (camping fees apply). From the Cambridge Plateau Picnic Area, take a short rainforest stroll or a two hour loop walk along Culmarin Valley (medium grade — steep steps at beginning).

**Access** 45 km west of Casino via the Bruxner Highway, then the Cambridge Plateau Forest Drive. Roads are closed during wet weather.

Kyogle, 6632 0000

### Short-beaked echidna

Together with the platypus, echidnas are one of the world's few living monotremes, or egg-laying mammals. The short-beaked echidna lives all over NSW, wherever termites — its main food source — can be found.





## 16 Solitary Islands Marine Park 71,100 ha



**Highlights** The marine park shelters over 280 species of fish, four species of turtle and around 90 species of coral. There are colourful sea slugs and plenty of marine mammals, including migrating humpback whales during colder months.

**Activities** If you're a water enthusiast, Solitary Islands has everything — diving, snorkelling, swimming, surfing, beach walking, whale watching, birdwatching, fishing and boating. You can camp in the adjacent Yuraygir National Park (north of Red Rock), or you'll find accommodation in Coffs Harbour, Woolgoolga, Wooli, Red Rock and numerous other places in the area. Special rules apply in the marine park, and zoning maps are available from tourist information centres, bait and tackle stores, dive shops and the marine park office.

**Access** The marine park stretches for 75 km along the coast north of Coffs Harbour. Access is from sealed roads off the Pacific Highway.

NSW Marine Parks Authority,  
6652 3977 or 6652 0900

### Red legged pademelon

This small, red and brown-furred relative of the kangaroo leads a solitary life in coastal forests from the NSW mid-north coast to Cape York. It feeds on leaves and berries, particularly Moreton Bay figs. To sleep, the red-legged pademelon rests its back against a tree, straddles the base of its tail and slumps its head forward into a ball.



## 17 Tooloom National Park 4380 ha



**Highlights** The Tooloom Scrub rainforest is World Heritage-listed, including important areas of red and flooded gum. There are 10 species of kangaroos and wallabies in the park, including the threatened long-nosed potoroo.

**Activities** A sealed road on the southern edge provides access to the Tooloom Picnic Area and lookout, with pit toilets and tank water. A 500 metre walking track from the picnic area offers an easy introduction to the Tooloom Scrub. Backpack camping is permitted in the park, but suitable sites are limited.

**Access** 10 km south-west of Urbenville via the Urbenville-Legume road.

Kyogle, 6632 0000

## 18 Toonumbar National Park 14,991 ha



**Highlights** Extensive subtropical rainforests protect threatened plants and animals, including the sooty owl, red-legged pademelon and yellow-bellied glider. The rainforests of Dome Mountain and the Murray Scrub are part of the World Heritage-listed Central Eastern Rainforest Reserves of Australia.

**Activities** The Murray Scrub walking track provides access to World Heritage rainforest. It takes two to three hours and is mostly of an easy grade. Car-based and caravan camping are available at Iron Pot Creek (fees apply).

Access 25 km west of Kyogle via the Afterlee Road (part unsealed but suitable for 2WD in dry weather). Roads may be closed during wet weather.

Kyogle, 6632 0000

## 19 Tweed Heads Historic Site 8 ha



**Highlights** The cultural centre, museum and Minjungbals ceremonial bora ring offer an insight into local Aboriginal culture.

**Activities** A boardwalk and walking track (both wheelchair accessible) run along the Ukerabagh Passage estuary, overlooking the nearby Ukerabagh Island Nature Reserve, and the local Goori people conduct guided tours.

**Access** Located in South Tweed Heads on Kirkwood Road off the Pacific Highway.

Murwillumbah, 6672 6360

## 20 Tyagarah Nature Reserve 800 ha



**Highlights** Tyagarah is a thin strip of protected coast encompassing 8 km of secluded and unspoiled beach backed by coastal heath.

**Activities** Have a quiet walk, or indulge in a spot of birdwatching or fishing within a stone's throw of Bryon Bay township. There are picnic facilities at the beach and an old mining track leads from Grays Lane to the northern boundary of the reserve. Camping is not permitted.

**Access** 10 km north of Byron Bay along Grays Lane (unsealed sections) off the Pacific Highway. \$6 vehicle entry fee.

Alstonville, 6627 0200

## Learning more about Aboriginal culture

The parks and reserves of NSW form part of the state's Aboriginal heritage. While many parks and reserves have examples of Aboriginal heritage to see and feel, such as the rock paintings at Mutawintji Historic Site, or the middens at Murrumbidgee Aboriginal Area, the landscape itself is a living thing, with cultural and spiritual ties for Aboriginal custodians that are still strong today. If you treat the parks and reserves you visit with respect, and apply a little common sense, you'll help to conserve the natural and cultural landscape.

The NPWS works in partnership with Aboriginal communities to protect natural and cultural heritage and the relationship between people and the land. Several parks are jointly managed by the NPWS and Aboriginal custodians, and similar arrangements are currently in negotiation throughout NSW. For example, Mungo National Park in the Outback NSW Willandra Lakes World Heritage Area is jointly managed with

the Three Tribal Groups' Elders Council, with representatives from the Barkindji, Mutthi Mutthi and Ngyiampaa people.

To learn more about Aboriginal culture and tradition, join an Aboriginal Discovery Ranger on a Discovery walk, talk or tour. Around Sydney, take a tour of Botany Bay National Park for an insight into the culture and traditional life of the Gweagal and Goorawal peoples; learn about traditional foods and medicines of the Dharawal people in Royal National Park or sit in on a talk in Blue Mountains National Park.

In the north, a Ranger can take you through Mount Yarrowyck Nature Reserve's cave painting site, or on a walking tour through Killiecrankie in New England National Park and the Killungoondie Plains in Dorrigo National Park. Out west, the Aboriginal Discovery Program at Mutawintji National Park features bush tucker, billy tea, Aboriginal art and kids' activities.





Sandun River, Yuraygir National Park.

## 23 Yuraygir National Park 30,406 ha



**Highlights** 60 km of striking cliffs, rocky headlands, isolated beaches and quiet lake systems set against a backdrop of forests, heaths, estuaries and wetlands make Yuraygir the longest stretch of undeveloped coastline in NSW.

**Activities** Boardwalks, walking tracks and picnic spots scattered throughout the park provide a range of opportunities to appreciate the scenery. There's car-based and caravan camping at Red Cliff, Lake Arragan, Sandon River and Illaroo, and car-based camping at Station Creek. Camping fees apply.

**Access** 50 km east of Grafton. Red Cliff, Lake Arragan and Sandon River are 15 km south-east of Maclean along Brooms Head Road (partially unsealed). Illaroo is 47 km east of Grafton, via Wooli Road and Minnie Water Road (off the Pacific Highway 12 km south of Grafton). Station Creek is 14 km north of Woolgoolga, via Barcoongerie Way (unsealed). \$6 per day vehicle entry fee.

Grafton, 6641 1500



### Chocolate-lily

This small flower, found across NSW, emits a strong scent to attract insects — and its chocolate-like aroma is very pleasant to humans as well. For a bit of variety try its close relative, the vanilla-lily.

## 21 Victoria Park Nature Reserve 18 ha



**Highlights** A stand of rainforest giants is one of the last remnants of the 'Big Scrub' — a lowland rainforest that once covered 75,000 hectares of northern NSW. Over 150 tree species have been recorded in this one small reserve.

**Activities** Take an easy, delightful stroll along the boardwalk and walking track and enjoy the variety of animals that inhabit the rainforest. There are several picnic areas with facilities and ample parking.

**Access** 7 km south of Alstonville on the Wardell Road. \$6 vehicle entry fee.

Alstonville, 6627 0200

## 22 Wilson Nature Reserve 27 ha



**Highlights** The reserve contains a significant patch of dry rainforest, a remnant of the 'Big Scrub'. The threatened marbled frogmouth can be found here, and koalas inhabit the eucalypt forest.

**Activities** A 1 km walking track leads from the picnic area to the lower section of the reserve, then back via Wilsons Creek. It's strenuous but very scenic.

**Access** On the southern outskirts of Lismore at the corner of City View Drive and Wyrallah Road.

Alstonville, 6627 0200

## Best spots for birdwatching

The national parks and reserves of NSW are home to hundreds of bird species, and one of the joys of visiting the bush is being able to watch or listen to birds in their natural environments.

In the state's north you can enjoy the prolific birdlife at Mallanganee National Park, see countless protected waterbirds in Little Llangothlin Nature Reserve, or marvel at the thousands of muttonbirds congregating each year to breed on Muttonbird Island Nature Reserve.

Around Sydney, Georges River National Park is home to more than 100 species, you can stroll among the birdlife on the shores of Lake Macquarie, and in Garawarra State Conservation Area

you may find that mimic of the forest floor, the lyrebird. Purchase a copy of *Birdwatching in Royal National Park and Heathcote National Park* at the Audley visitor centre.

In the south, Barren Grounds Nature Reserve has a bird observatory, there's plenty to be seen at Cecil Hoskins Nature Reserve and Brindabella National Park, and Comerong Island Nature Reserve is home to a large number of wading birds.

In the west, birds congregate at Kinchega National Park's glittering lakes in a dry landscape, and in Culgoa National Park you can see a huge diversity of birds on the open grass plains.

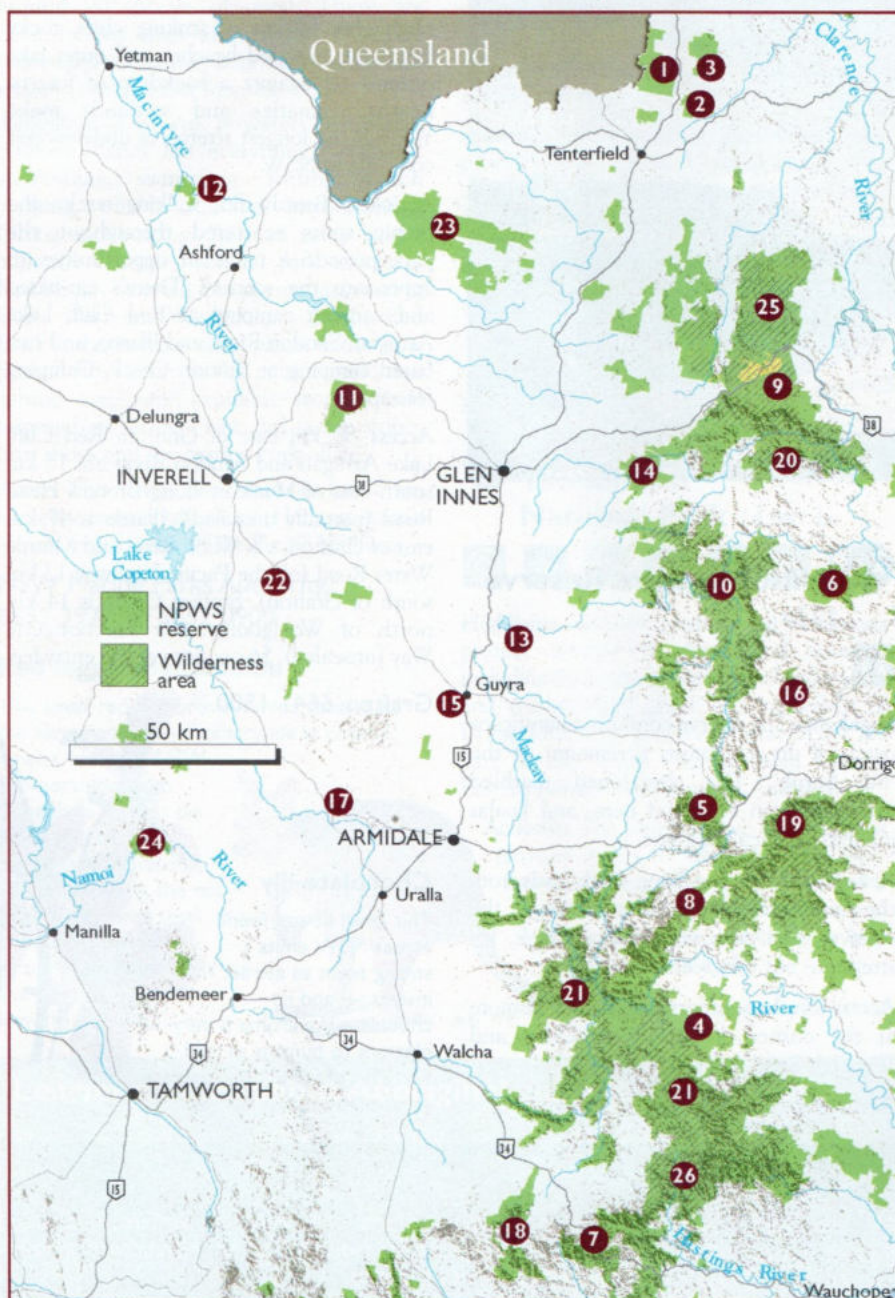
Call 1300 361 967 or contact local NPWS offices (see back cover) for more information.



# New England Tablelands



The high country of New England, bordered by the Great Escarpment to the east, has dramatic granite tors, plunging waterfalls, deep gorges and rugged wilderness, as well as fascinating Aboriginal and historic places. Experience breathtaking views from the summit of Bald Rock, walk in moss-covered cool-temperate rainforests at New England National Park or look out over the mighty Wollomombi waterfall as it drops into the deepest gorge in NSW. Visit [www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/newengland](http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/newengland)



## 1 Bald Rock National Park 8883 ha



**Highlights** The water-streaked dome of Bald Rock is the largest granite rock in Australia — 750 metres long, 500 metres wide and

200 metres high. The park around it is full of canyons, stone arches, echo points and plenty of kangaroos.

**Activities** The walk to the summit (three hour return trip) offers panoramic views, and on a clear day you can see well into Queensland. Other walks (4 to 14 km return) take in the creeks and woodlands of the surrounding granite country. The

camping area beside the rock suits car-based camping and medium-sized caravans, and has toilets and water (fees apply).

**Access** 29 km north of Tenterfield off the mostly-sealed Mt Lindesay (Woodenbong) Road. \$6 per day vehicle entry fee.

Glen Innes, 6732 5133

## 2 Basket Swamp National Park 2820 ha

**Highlights** Basket Swamp is an important wetland of heaths and sedges. It cleans, stores and slowly releases water throughout the year into local creeks that run into the coastal Clarence River system.

**Activities** This is a woodland park without facilities that would suit self-reliant bushwalkers. It includes Timbarra Lookout and gives access to nearby Basket Swamp Falls and the Woolloomoolni Aboriginal Place. Boonoo State Forest, which has a picnic and camping area with tables and toilet, is directly south.

**Access** 14 km north-east of Tenterfield off the Mt Lindesay (Woodenbong) Road (partly unsealed).

Glen Innes, 6732 5133

## 3 Boonoo Boonoo National Park 4377 ha



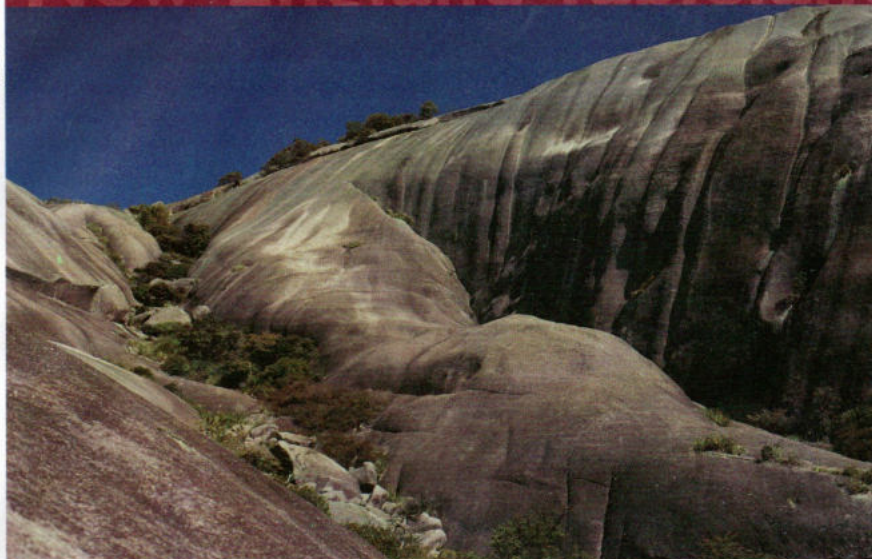
**Highlights** From a lookout platform you can watch the river plunge 210 metres at Boonoo Boonoo Falls. In spring, boronia, banksia, grevillea and a profusion of other flowering plants brighten the woodlands of this granite country.

**Activities** Cypress-pine camping area, by Boonoo Boonoo River, suits car-based camping, including medium-sized caravans (camping fees apply). The falls are an easy 300 metres walk from the campsite and swimming in the river is popular in summer.

**Access** 24 km north-east of Tenterfield off the Mt Lindesay (Woodenbong) Road on partly unsealed roads. \$6 per day vehicle entry fee.

Glen Innes, 6732 5133





The massive boulder that gives Bald Rock National Park its name.

## 4 Carrai National Park 11,397 ha

**Highlights** The three separate areas of this remote and isolated park jointly conserve parts of the unique Carrai plateau and steep escarpments to Kunderang Brook and the Macleay River.

**Activities** You can enjoy good views across the Macleay River Valley. Large tracts of old growth eucalypt forest and rainforest provide ample opportunities for experienced and well-prepared bushwalkers. Basic accommodation is available at nearby Kookaburra Hut (for bookings phone 6566 6168).

**Access** 90 km west of Kempsey on the remote, unsealed Carrai and Coachwood roads via Kookaburra (4WD essential).

Walcha, 6777 1400

## 5 Cathedral Rock National Park 8839 ha



**Highlights** Giant boulders, sculpted rock and distinctive granite tors make striking subjects for photography — and keep an eye out for wedge-tailed eagles on the wing.

**Activities** Explore the rock formations on the Cathedral Rock track, an easy three hour circuit, or the longer Woolpack Rocks walk (medium grade). Car-based camping is available at Barokee (not suitable for caravans) and Native Dog Creek rest areas. Camping fees apply.

**Access** 60 km west of Dorrigo off the Waterfall Way (unsealed roads).

Dorrigo, 6657 2309

## 6 Chaelundi National Park 10,125 ha



**Highlights** Chaelundi's old-growth forest, the largest stand in northern NSW, supports threatened fauna and makes for excellent bushwalking.

**Activities** Do some birdwatching, go cycling along the network of fire trails or picnic at the Shannon Creek rest area (on Shannon Creek Forest Road). Grassy flats along Chandlers Creek are suitable for walking, swimming and backpack camping (no facilities). Car-based camping available along the Chandlers Creek fire trail (4WD only, no facilities).

**Access** 10 km west of Nymboida via Boundary Creek Road (unsealed) off the Armidale–Grafton Road.

Dorrigo, 6657 2309

### Bush stone-curlew

The bush stone-curlew is one of the state's most recognisable woodland bird species, with its gangly legs and distinctive 'weer-loo' wailing call. It was once found throughout much of New South Wales, but numbers have declined greatly over the last century — mainly due to foxes and loss of its woodland habitat.



## New wilderness to explore

The word 'wilderness' as it's used in this guide has a very special meaning under the NSW Wilderness Act. It refers to large, remote areas that, together with their native plant and animal communities, have remained essentially unchanged by modern human activity. Wilderness areas in national parks are managed so that natural ecosystems are disturbed as little as possible, so motor vehicles, bicycles and horses are not permitted. On the other hand, there are endless opportunities to walk, canoe, camp and take in the perfect solitude of nature at its untouched best.

In September 2002, an additional 273,500 hectares of new wilderness was declared in the north and south of the state — all within existing national parks and reserves — increasing the total area protected as wilderness to nearly 1.9 million hectares, or just over two per cent of the state.

As at December 2002, eight new wilderness areas are to be created in the north and additions will be made to seven existing wilderness areas from the Hunter Valley to the Queensland border and across the Northern Tablelands. The

new areas include two important and precious coastal areas at Limeburners Creek and Bundjalung. Extensions have been added to existing wilderness throughout the North Coast and Northern Rivers — including Cathedral Rock, although its new wilderness status won't affect camping or access to the park.

In the south, three new sections will be added to the Ettrema wilderness, located in and around Morton National Park. On the far south coast, the core of wilderness forests extending along the escarpment will be extended by around 40,000 ha. The additions will provide improved scope for conservation, but will maintain accessibility to areas of recreational and heritage interest. In the Kosciuszko region, a number of new and expanded sections have been announced, including the Indi and Western Fall areas west of Thredbo.

Contact a local NPWS office (see back cover), or visit the website at [www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au](http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au) for maps and descriptions of the new wilderness areas or more information on wilderness throughout New South Wales.



## A wide waterfall cascading over a rocky ledge into a pool below, surrounded by dense forest.

L. Little

forest  
and e

At night, the brown tree snake glides slowly through the branches of coastal trees throughout northern and eastern Australia. It can climb and crush its prey on

## New England Tablelands

Any questions call 1300 361 967



# New England Tablelands

the Kings Plain Road. 47 km north-east of Inverell off Swanbrook Road in town. All roads are unsealed with creek crossings that may flood briefly in wet weather.

Glen Innes, 6732 5133

## 12 Kwiambal National Park 1301 ha



**Highlights** The Macintyre river rushes through sculpted granite gorges and plunge pools at Macintyre Falls before meeting the Severn River. The park protects regionally important woodlands of white cypress-pine, box and ironbark.

**Activities** Camp or fish by the river or go for a bushwalk. Car-based and caravan camping is available by the Severn River at Lemon Tree Flat, where there are toilets, fireplaces and shelters.

**Access** 90 km north of Inverell. Go to Ashford village, then west 18 km on the sealed Wallangra Road, then turn north for 18 km on unsealed Limestone Road. In wet weather check road conditions in Ashford, or phone the Glen Innes office or local police.

Glen Innes, 6732 5133

## 13 Little Llangothlin Nature Reserve 258 ha



**Highlights** A small, high-altitude wetland, supporting significant communities of black swans and nomadic pelicans, that was declared a 'Wetland of International Importance' in 1996. There's excellent birdwatching on the southern shores of the lagoon.

**Activities** You can walk around the lagoon watching waterbirds, but the track is rough so you'll need good footwear. For the protection of the birds, camping and canoeing are not allowed. Information signs are the only visitor facility.

**Access** 50 km south of Glen Innes, 60 km north of Armidale. Turn off the Gwydir Highway 44 km south of Glen Innes or 10 km north of the village of Llangothlin, and take the Tubbamurra Road for 2.5 km, then turn left onto Bagot Road (unsealed) for a further 3.5 km.

Glen Innes, 6732 5133

### Green and golden bell frog

This vibrant frog's upper body is a jumble of vivid greens and almost metallic golds. However, its croak could hardly be described as 'bell-like' — listeners have likened it to the sound of a motorbike changing gears. This once-widespread frog is now limited to a series of isolated coastal populations.



## 14 Mann River Nature Reserve 6594 ha



**Highlights** The remote, rugged and largely untouched landscape, part of the Mann River Wilderness, offers plenty of quiet and solitude. Rocky outcrops provide outstanding views and the river makes a pleasant spot for walking or camping.

**Activities** Swim, paddle an air mattress, or stretch out and relax on a smooth boulder. Car-based and caravan camping are available beside the river, where there are toilets, fireplaces and tables. Suitably equipped bushwalkers with topographic maps can explore the wilder parts of the river upstream.

## Camping spots and costs



Wherever you see this symbol, you'll find a camping area in a national park or state conservation area (camping is generally not permitted in nature reserves). Camping in this guide is divided into three categories:

**Caravan camping:** there's enough space to manoeuvre a full-sized caravan and the access roads are suitable. There's usually running water, picnic tables, fireplaces and toilets (many also have showers).

**Car-based camping:** you can usually camp right next to your car, campervan or camper trailer. In some cases, the description will tell you there's a 'short walk from carpark' and you'll need to leave your vehicle and walk a short distance to the camping area (often separated by bollards) — this may not suit campervans or camper trailers. Car-based camping areas usually have facilities similar to those in caravan camping areas.

**Backpack camping:** you'll need to carry your tent to an area not reached by car and usually with no facilities (in this guide some parks have no 'camping area' symbol but will still allow backpack camping).

### Further information

On the National Parks website ([www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au](http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au)) you can search for a campsite to meet your needs — choose the region, type of site, facilities and fees. Or call 1300 361 967 and ask for a copy of the brochure *Discover Camping in NSW National Parks*. For tips on minimising your impact on the environment when camping, see page 17.

### Camping fees

Some campsites are free, and for the others there are four fee levels:

Level	Price per adult per day (16+ years)	Price per child per day (5-15 years)
1	\$3.00	\$2.00
2	\$5.00	\$3.00
3	\$7.50	\$4.00
4	\$9.00	\$4.50

Children under 5 are free. All prices include GST and are current as at November 2002.

Special rates apply at Lane Cove River Caravan Park, Woody Head (Bundjalung National Park) and Mutawintji National Park. Camping fees are not covered by a vehicle entry fee or annual pass.

This guide tells you where you can camp, but not what levels the camping areas are in each park (some have more than one camping area at different fee levels), so you'll need to call the individual parks for more information. Also remember that some camping areas require bookings — for popular areas book early to avoid disappointment.



# New England Tablelands

**Access** 48 km east of Glen Innes, 129 km west of Grafton. Turn off the Gwydir Highway 35 km east of Glen Innes onto the old Glen Innes–Grafton road (partly unsealed, but the winding steep descent is fully sealed and will suit medium-sized caravans). Take this road between the park and Grafton for a scenic alternative, but it includes 120 km of unsealed road not suitable for caravans.

Glen Innes, 6732 5133

## 15 Mother of Ducks Lagoon Nature Reserve 97 ha



**Highlights** A rare high-country wetland that's a stopping place for the migratory Japanese snipe and home to many other waterbirds.

**Activities** Watch the birdlife from the hide at the edge of the water. There are no marked walking tracks but it's possible to walk around the lagoon. The viewing platform is accessible by wheelchair from the adjacent carpark near the golf course. There are no camping facilities but there's a camping and caravan park in nearby Guyra.

**Access** 37 km north of Armidale just off the New England Highway in south Guyra. 2WD sealed access.

Armidale, 6776 0000

## 16 Mount Hyland Nature Reserve 2519 ha



**NEW ENTRY**

**Highlights** Cool temperate rainforest clothes the three separate peaks that make up Mt Hyland, which at 1400 metres is one of the highest points on the New England Plateau. A short walk, picnic facilities and two lookouts are provided in the reserve.

**Activities** The 3 km loop walk guides you through the sassafras and mountain walnut-dominated rainforest, where a series of signs introduce interesting features of the park. Lookouts along the trail and at Vista Point provide magnificent views across the Dorrigo plateau.

**Access** 50 km north-west of Dorrigo. Take either the unsealed Sheep Station Creek Road from Dundurrabin or Marengo and Hardens Roads (unsealed) from Hernani. Both routes branch off from the Armidale–Grafton road.

Dorrigo, 6657 2309

New England Tablelands



World Heritage rainforest in New England National Park.

## 17 Mount Yarrowyck Nature Reserve 170 ha



**Highlights** Take an Aboriginal cultural walk and visit an Aboriginal rock painting site.

**Activities** A 3 km return track with signs introducing aspects of Aboriginal culture takes you along the granite slopes of the mountain to the rock painting site. *Discovery* tours with Aboriginal guides are available during the year and on request (fees apply).

**Access** 30 km west of Armidale along the mostly sealed Bundarra Road.

Armidale, 6776 0000

## 18 Mummel Gulf National Park 12,220 ha



**Highlights** The ancient old growth forests of this park cling to the edge of the Great Escarpment, which drops from 1450 metres down to 470 metres. The site of protests against continued logging in the early 1990s, the park protects the threatened spotted-tailed quoll, koala, yellow-bellied glider and sooty, powerful and masked owls, as well as several rare plants.

**Activities** There's a picnic area and car-based camping at New Country Swamp. A short walk from the campground offers breathtaking views from the edge of Mummel Gulf.

**Access** 12 km south of the Oxley Highway, 50 km south east of Walcha on the unsealed Enfield Road (last 15 km of unsealed road not recommended for caravans, and not recommended for 2WD vehicles in wet weather).

Walcha, 6777 1400

## 19 New England National Park 71,299 ha



**Highlights** A landscape of cliffs and World Heritage rainforests with fast creeks, occasional snowfalls and mist that spills over the edge of the Great Escarpment.

**Activities** Point Lookout, Banksia Point or Wrights Lookout offer wilderness views. You can enjoy easy walks around the lookouts, or take one of the longer, more challenging tracks. There's wheelchair access to Point Lookout viewing platform on a 100-metre sealed track from the carpark (accessible parking and toilets). Stay at The Residence, The Chalet or Tom's Cabin (for bookings phone 6657 2309). Car-based camping is available at Thungutti and an area for campervans and camper trailers is available just outside the entrance to the park (call for details). Camping fees apply.

**Access** 85 km east of Armidale on the Waterfall Way. Unsealed roads.

Dorrigo, 6657 2309

## 20 Nymboida National Park 31,566 ha



**Highlights** An area famous for the challenging white-water on the Nymboida and Mann rivers.

**Activities** There are no marked tracks, but the park has a lot to offer for experienced and well-equipped walkers. Take on the white-water, or go canoeing, swimming or fishing in one of the quieter spots. There's 4WD-based camping at Nymboida River camping area (basic facilities, no fees).

Any questions call 1300 361 967



# New England Tablelands

Access 50 km west of Grafton. Also accessible by canoe from Buccarumbi (40 km south-west of Grafton on the old Glen Innes–Grafton road, unsealed), or on foot from Jackadgery (45 km west of Grafton on the Gwydir Highway).

Grafton, 6641 1500

Glen Innes, 6732 5133

## 21 Oxley Wild Rivers

National Park 120,394 ha



**Highlights** A World Heritage park with dramatic gorges and waterfalls, extensive wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, dry rainforest and rare plants and animals. Wollomombi is the highest waterfall in NSW and the Bicentennial National Trail passes through the park.

**Activities** The park spreads over a large area, with ten separate visitor areas. Gara Gorge is for day use only. Wollomombi Gorge, Long Point, Dangars Gorge, Budds Mare, Apsley Falls and Tia Falls are suitable for 2WD car-based camping. Riverside and Youdales Hut offer camping and day use but are accessible by 4WD only (bookings required, phone 6777 2755 or 6777 1400). Kunderang East Homestead has accommodation but no camping (bookings required, phone 6776 0000).

Discovery tours are available at times during the year (fees apply). Walks of varying distances and degree of difficulty are available at each visitor area. There are excellent facilities for people with a disability, including amazing lookouts and paths at Apsley, Dangars and Wollomombi Falls.

**Access** Beginning about 20 km east of Armidale and Walcha, there are two main access roads, the Waterfall Way and Oxley Highway. Other access roads are good but unsealed, with 4WD required in a few places. Check a detailed map for other access points and seek further information before visiting.

Armidale, 6776 0000

Walcha, 6777 1400

## 22 Stonewoman Aboriginal Area 2 ha



**Highlights** The Tingha Stonewoman is a rock feature used by local Aboriginal people as a teaching and ceremonial site. A sign prepared in collaboration with local Aboriginal groups tells the story of a young woman punished for breaking traditional marriage laws.

**Activities** You'll need to carry drinking water and allow one hour in total for the 1 km walk from the carpark. Camping is not permitted.

**Access** The carpark is 6 km south of Tingha village on the unsealed Kempton Road.

Tingha is 22 km south-east of Inverell and 55 km north-west of Guyra on sealed roads.

Glen Innes, 6732 5133

## 23 Torrington State Conservation Area

30,052 ha



**Highlights** A geologically rich part of the Tablelands with beautiful scenery, several historical sites, and an amazing variety of woodland plants and animals. Fossickers seek topaz, emerald, sapphire and quartz crystal here.

**Activities** There are visitor facilities at Nomads picnic area, where Thunderbolts Lookout offers fine 360° views, and you can walk to the curious rock formation called Mystery Face. Car-based camping is available at Blatherarm Creek camping area.

### Yellow-bellied glider

Gliding possums 'fly' from one tree to another on a sheet of skin stretched between their forepaws and ankles, using their long, furry tails as rudders. The yellow-bellied glider, the best flyer of the family, can travel over 100 metres in one leap. It's found along the NSW coast.



## Tread softly

National parks are special areas and it's up to all of us to treat them with care — whether camping, bushwalking or vehicle touring. Here's how to keep your impact to a minimum:

### When camping:

- Use designated fireplaces in camping areas and observe fire bans. Off the beaten track, use a fuel stove rather than wood (even dead wood provides habitat for native animals).
- Use rubbish bins or, better still, take rubbish with you when you leave. Don't bury it as animals dig it up.
- If you must use detergents, toothpaste or soap, stay at least 50 metres from waterways. In areas without toilets, dig a hole 15 cm deep at least 100 metres from waterways to bury human waste.
- Don't feed native animals — it can damage their health and make them dependent on camping areas for food.
- Wherever possible leave everything as you find it.
- Leave pets, firearms, spearguns, generators and chainsaws at home.

For more details on camping, see page 15.

### When walking:

- Stay on the track. Walking on track edges and cutting corners on zigzagging tracks increases erosion and visual scarring.

- Avoid walking on sensitive vegetation by staying on rocks and hard ground wherever possible.
- Tread softly, wearing running shoes or lightweight walking boots.

For more information on minimising your impact when camping or walking, visit our website at [www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au](http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au).

### When vehicle touring:

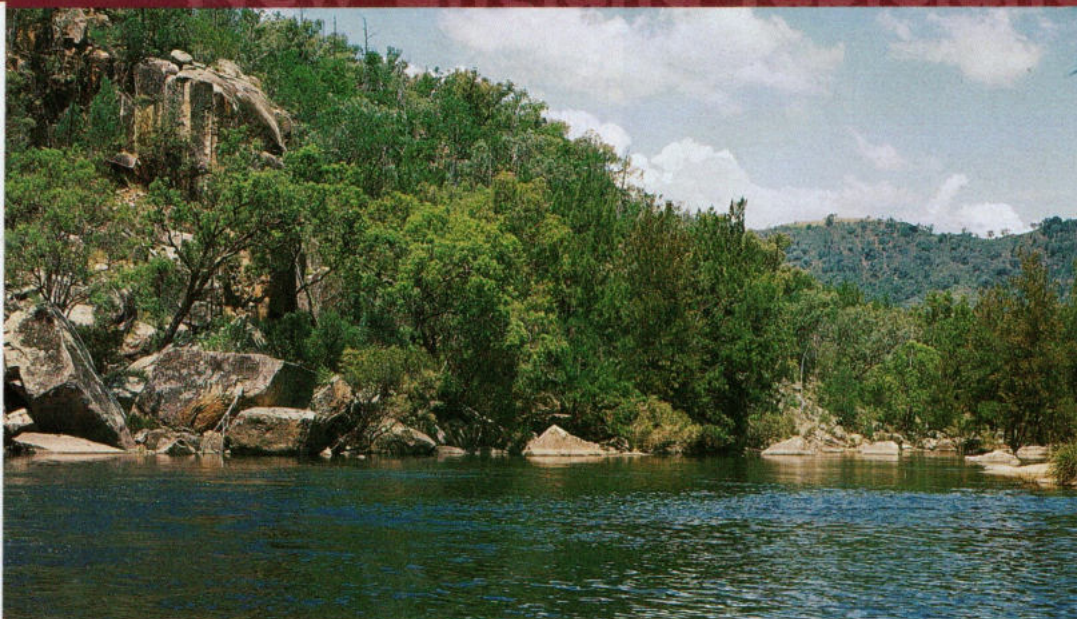
- Keep your vehicle in good working order — for safety and to prevent oil and fuel spills.
- Use designated park entrances so you don't disturb park neighbours. Also check that there are no weeds caught in your tyres or under your car.
- Follow existing routes and tracks, and drive well in from the edge so you don't widen them.
- Avoid dazzling wildlife with high beam, spotlights or powerful driving lights.
- Ford creeks only at designated crossings, and approach at 90° to avoid damaging the banks.
- If you're with a group, keep the number of vehicles to a minimum.

For more information on vehicle touring see page 57.

OUR ENVIRONMENT  
*it's a living thing*  
A NEW GOVERNMENT INITIATIVE



# New England Tablelands



Namoi River, Warrabah National Park.

in the north-east, or stay in the caravan park or hotel in nearby Torrington. Local roads are unsealed but suitable for all weather (take care when wet).

**Access** 65 km north of Glen Innes. Leave Deepwater on the New England Highway 45 km north of Glen Innes or 55 km south of Tenterfield, travel to Stannum then follow 10 km of unsealed road to Torrington.

Glen Innes, 6732 5133

## 24 Warrabah National Park 3471 ha



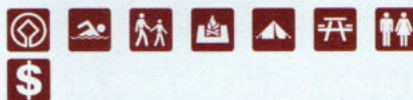
**Highlights** One of the state's few inland river parks, Warrabah provides an important native refuge in a largely cleared area. Ridges and isolated granite boulders line a scenic section of the Namoi River before it meets the Western Plains.

**Activities** Pools and rapids are excellent for fishing and canoeing, and there are good opportunities for bushwalking. There's plenty of room for campers (fees apply) and day visitors.

**Access** 80 km north of Tamworth, 35 km north-east of Manilla on the unsealed Namoi River Road.

Armidale, 6776 0000

## 25 Washpool National Park 60,067 ha



**Highlights** The landscape of steep gorges, clear waters and expansive World Heritage rainforest protects some of the most diverse and least disturbed forest in NSW, including the world's largest stand of

coachwood trees. The scope for wilderness walking is excellent.

**Activities** The 8.5 km Washpool Walk takes in the park's main forest types. The Coombadjha Walk, an easy 1.5 km circuit with educational signs and creek-side scenery, makes a good introduction to the park. Camp at Coombadjha (short walk from carpark) or Bellbird camping areas, where there are toilets, shelters and fireplaces (fees apply). Car-based camping is available but the park doesn't suit caravans.

**Access** 78 km east of Glen Innes and 93 km west of Grafton off the Gwydir Highway. Includes a 3 km park entry road (unsealed; take care when wet). \$6 per day vehicle entry fee.

Glen Innes, 6732 5133

## 26 Werrikimbe National Park 31,488 ha



**Highlights** A World Heritage-listed place of wild magnificence, with rainforests, heaths, rushing rivers and spring wildflowers.

**Activities** There are five main visitor areas at Cobcroft, Mooraback, Plateau Beech, Grass Tree and Brushy Mountain. Car-based camping is available at Mooraback (2WD) and Brushy Mountain (4WD only) camping areas. Short walks are available from all five visitor areas, with longer walks at various locations.

**Access** 90 km east of Walcha or 80 km north-west of Wauchope off the Oxley Highway, including 55 km of narrow unsealed roads (not recommended for standard caravans).

East: Port Macquarie, 6586 8300

West: Walcha, 6777 1400

### Access for people with a disability



This symbol next to a park description indicates that certain areas of a park are wheelchair accessible, though it's a good idea to call local NPWS offices for details (see back cover). These facilities will often also be useful to visitors with reduced mobility or who are sight impaired. Here is just a sample:

- To the north you can see pristine beaches at Yuraygir National Park, beautiful rivers at Oxley Wild Rivers National Park, and rainforest at Dorrigo and Barrington Tops national parks.
- In Sydney and surrounding areas there are beautiful harbourside spots at Bradleys Head and North Head in Sydney Harbour National Park, breathtaking views of gorges and waterfalls in Blue Mountains National Park, and scenic tracks in Royal National Park.

- To the south you can visit Kosciuszko National Park in winter for the snow or summer for wildflowers, enjoy tranquil rainforest at the Minnamurra Rainforest Centre in Budderoo National Park, and learn about all the parks of the region at the Fitzroy Falls Visitor Centre, which has been specially designed for wheelchair access.

- In the central and western regions you can see an ancient volcano at Warrumbungle National Park, Aboriginal sites at Mutawintji National Park, and waterbirds and kangaroos at Willandra National Park.

For more information call local NPWS offices (see back cover) or visit the website at [www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au](http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au). Our Access for All brochure has detailed information on accessible facilities in 17 parks around the Sydney area.



**Activities** Short, interesting walks at Gloucester Tops feature antarctic beech forests, snow gum woodlands and scenic waterfalls. At Williams River and Jerusalem Creek there are easy walks through rainforest and tall blue gums. Wheelchair access is provided at Devils Hole lookout and the Williams River picnic area. On the plateau, short and inspiring walks at Polblue Swamp pass through snow gum woodland, tall eucalypt forest and areas of high-altitude swamp. Car-based camping is available at Gloucester River (fees apply), Polblue Swamp, Horse Swamp or Devils Hole.

**Access** 38 km west of Gloucester, 40 km north-west of Dungog and 65 km east of Scone. Access is generally along unsealed roads. Entry to Polblue Swamp camping area and barbecue facilities is off the Barrington Tops Forest Road.

Gloucester, 6538 5300

Scone, 6540 2300

Nelson Bay, 4984 8200

**3 Bellinger River National Park** 2830 ha

**Highlights** An area of steep slopes and valleys, old-growth forests and rainforests that links New England National Park and Dorrig National Park, forming part of one of the largest wildlife refuges in NSW.

**Activities** Much of the park is very steep with limited access, however keen walkers and birdwatchers can explore the trackless forests. Griffiths Lookout, above the northern edge of the park, gives marvellous views of the coast and the Great Escarpment.

**Access** 10 km south-east of Dorrigo. There's no vehicle access within the park. Walk in from the Waterfall Way, or from roads alongside Bellinger River.

Dorrigo, 6657 2309

**1 Arakoon**  
**State Conservation Area**  
114 ha



**Highlights** Trial Bay Gaol (1886), which is on the Register of the National Estate, is surrounded by rocky foreshores and pleasant sandy beaches.

**Activities** Wander through the museum, explore the ruins or relax on the beach. You can take a stroll over Monument Hill to the Little Bay picnic area, or enjoy the spectacular walk from the picnic area to historic Smoky Cape Lighthouse in Hat Head National Park. Around the gaol there are picnic areas and facilities for car-based and

[www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au](http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au)

caravan camping. There's an entry fee to the gaol and museum with guided tours available in holiday periods. Camping fees apply.

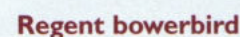
Access 3 km east of South West Rocks near the village of Arakoon.

Arakoon, 6566 6621


**2 Barrington Tops National Park** 73,884 ha



**Highlights** A land of contrasts, with World Heritage sub-tropical rainforests in the lower valleys and sub-alpine woodland on the upland plateau. Most of the area is declared wilderness, with wild and scenic rivers and winter snowcaps.



Male bowerbirds build their intricate display areas (or bowers) not for laying eggs, but to entice females. The regent bowerbird weaves its bower out of twigs, paints it yellow with saliva and the juice of crushed leaves, and then decorates it with snail shells, pebbles, berries and leaves. It's found along the coast north from Sydney.


 An illustration of a regent bowerbird, characterized by its black head, back, and tail, with a bright yellow breast and belly. The bird is standing on a patch of brown ground, facing right. Behind it is its bower, a structure made of vertical twigs and branches, some of which are decorated with yellow paint and small white objects like snail shells. The background is a plain, light blue-grey color.



## 4 Bindarri National Park 5321 ha

**Highlights** The headwaters of the Urumbilum River offer spectacular waterfalls in a remote and rugged setting. Pockets of old-growth forest are scattered across the plateau and rainforest protects the steeper slopes.

**Activities** There are currently no facilities, however backpack camping and bushwalking are possible if you're keen to explore the park's remote forests.

**Access** 20 km west of Coffs Harbour, via Corfes Road from near Ulong, or Pine Road from Dairyville (both unsealed, dry-weather roads; 4WD access only on Pine, Langleys and Urumbilum Roads).

Coffs Harbour, 6652 0900

## 5 Bongil Bongil National Park 978 ha



**Highlights** 11 kilometres of unspoiled beaches, coastal rainforest and fascinating estuaries make Bongil Bongil ideal for family activities. A set of three sandy dunes run parallel to the beach, the best feature of this type in NSW.

**Activities** The new Bongil picnic area is set among tall trees on the banks of peaceful



Trial Bay Gaol assembly hall, Arakoon State Conservation Area.

Bonville Creek. Explore Bonville and Pine creeks by canoe from the launching pontoon or enjoy an easy walk from Tuckers Rocks. Camping isn't permitted in the park but there's accommodation in the area, including privately owned caravan parks at Mylestom and Sawtell. No vehicles are permitted on the beach north of Bundagen Head.

**Access** 10 km south of Coffs Harbour via Williams Road (closed sunset to sunrise) or Tuckers Rock Road (unsealed) from Repton, Overhead Bridge Road (unsealed) or Lyons Road off the Pacific Highway.

Coffs Harbour, 6652 0900

## 6 Boorganna Nature Reserve 390 ha



**Highlights** One of the oldest nature reserves in the state (1908), the reserve contains five types of forest, including rainforest, and is a sanctuary for a variety of flora and fauna.

**Activities** A signed walking track through the forest leads to views of the gorge created by Rawson Falls. The varied birdlife is best observed during the early hours of the day.

## Rainforests of NSW

Stands of rainforest are scattered all along the eastern parts of NSW, from Nadgee Nature Reserve in the far south to the World Heritage-listed Central Eastern Rainforest Reserves of Australia that stretch from Barrington Tops to south-east Queensland. The park descriptions in this guide include five kinds of NSW rainforest:

**Subtropical rainforest** is widespread in the north-east parks, including Dorrigo and Toonumbar, and is full of classic rainforest imagery: strangler figs, palms, thick woody vines, clinging elkhorn ferns and orchids, and rippling buttressed tree trunks. It grows on fertile soil in areas of high rainfall.

**Littoral rainforest** is a form of subtropical rainforest that you'll find on coastal headlands and sand dunes in spots like Sea Acres Nature Reserve, Bongil Bongil National Park and Broken Head Nature Reserve. It can reach heights of 20 metres, but in exposed areas coastal winds can reduce littoral rainforest to scrubby thicket. This sort of vegetation only makes up a tiny proportion of NSW rainforests, which makes conservation particularly challenging, and it's mostly found along the mid- and far-north coast but extends to the south coast. Iluka Nature Reserve has one of the largest and richest stands and is included in the World Heritage-listed Central Eastern Rainforest Reserves of Australia.

**Dry rainforest** sounds like a contradiction, but it refers to communities found on fertile soil in drier conditions, particularly where rainfall is highly seasonal. You'll recognise it by the low to medium canopy with occasional taller trees thrusting into the open air above. There are patches throughout the Northern Wilderness areas, including Oxley Wild Rivers National Park.

**Warm temperate rainforest** occurs extensively in NSW, particularly in higher altitudes. In the north, you'll find it in some of the more rugged parks, including Cascade and Junuy Juluum and there are small pockets in Ku-ring-gai Chase and Royal national parks. Its plant life is simpler than subtropical rainforest, with only a handful of dominant species. Tree trunks tend to be long, straight and slender, surrounded by plenty of ferns.

**Cool temperate rainforest** is simpler again, sometimes dominated by a single species. You won't find vines and buttresses, but the ground is thick with ferns and scattered liverworts and mosses. The two main types of cool temperate rainforest, antarctic beech and pinkwood, exist almost entirely within the NSW borders. Cool temperate rainforest can be found in highland parks from Border Ranges to New England.

Ring 1300 361 967, visit the website on [www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au](http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au), or contact local NPWS offices (see back cover) for more information.



# Hunter & Mid North Coast

**Access** 40 km north of Taree along Innes View Road from the Wingham–Comboyne Road, from Wauchope via Comboyne off the Oxley Highway or from Kew off the Pacific Highway.

Port Macquarie, 6586 8300

## 7 Booti Booti National Park 1567 ha



**Highlights** Wallis Lake and beautiful beaches of all shapes and sizes offer good fishing, swimming and boating. The lookout tower on Cape Hawke offers 360° views over the forests of Booti Booti and Wallingat national parks, the foothills of the Barrington Tops, Seal Rocks and Crowdy Bay.

**Activities** Wallis Lake, on the western boundary, is popular for boating and windsurfing. Cape Hawke has one of the state's most significant stands of coastal littoral rainforest. There's car-based camping (2WD access in all weather) at The Ruins (fees

### Triggerplant

The triggerplant has a curious and ingenious way of distributing its pollen.

When an insect lands on the flower, the column bearing the pollen flicks forward, hitting the insect and showering it with pollen.

When the insect flies away, it's well coated in pollen for fertilising other triggerplants. Triggerplants are found in the Australian Alps and along the coast north of Sydney, as well as in other states.

apply). Wood fires are not permitted anywhere in the park or on the beaches.

**Access** 10 km south of Forster on The Lakes Way. \$6 per day vehicle entry fee.

Pacific Palms, 6591 0300  
Nelson Bay, 4984 8200

## 8 Burning Mountain Nature Reserve 15 ha



**Highlights** Early explorers assumed Burning Mountain's billowing smoke and peak of grey, smoldering ash was a volcano, but it's actually a natural slow-burning coal seam, one of very few in the world.

**Activities** Signs along the walk from the rest area explain the effects of the underground fire on the landscape, the regeneration process and the significance of the area to Aboriginal people. There are good views of the Hunter Valley and Wingen Maid Nature Reserve, and great photo opportunities. Nearby visitor facilities are administered by Scone Council.

**Access** 24 km north of Scone. Entry is off the New England Highway north of Wingen.

Scone, 6540 2300  
Nelson Bay, 4984 8200

## 9 Cascade National Park 3620 ha



**Highlights** Beautiful subtropical and warm temperate rainforest, including booyong, crabapple and coachwood trees, surround the village of Cascade. The forest is an

important habitat for many upland rainforest amphibians, such as the giant barred frog, stuttering frog and pouched frog.

**Activities** The Box Ridge walking track (1 km medium grade) takes you through a delightful corner of the park.

**Access** 18 km north of Dorrigo on the Cascade Road (unsealed).

Dorrigo, 6657 2309

## 10 Crowdy Bay National Park 9948 ha



**Highlights** The sculpted rock formations of Diamond Head jut more than 100 metres above Crowdy Bay. Australian author Kylie Tennant lived and wrote beneath the head, and her hut has been restored and maintained.

**Activities** At low tide you can explore the rocks and pools below the cliffs. There's good fishing, birdwatching and fascinating headland walks with abundant wildlife. Car-based and caravan camping is available at Diamond Head, Indian Head and Kyllies Beach. Camping fees apply. Bring your own drinking water, firewood is sold on site.

**Access** 25 km north-east of Taree off the Pacific Highway at Moorland; 3 km south of Laurieon via the coast road from Port Macquarie or 13 km east of Kew via Laurieon and the coast road. \$6 per day vehicle entry fee.

Port Macquarie, 6586 8300

## Looking for a waterfall?

You'll find waterfalls in national parks and reserves across the state, from thundering cliff-top plunges to peaceful splashing rock falls. Some come to life after periods of rain, others gush or trickle throughout the year. If you're looking for the kind of natural calm only a waterfall can offer, ask at the NPWS office near the park you'll be visiting.

Within 100 km of Sydney, easily-reached viewing platforms look out over rivers cascading from the sandstone escarpment of the Blue Mountains — Govetts Leap near Blackheath and Katoomba Cascades are wheelchair accessible and it's a short easy walk to see Wentworth falls from Princes Rock lookout. Smaller, quieter falls babble throughout Royal National Park,

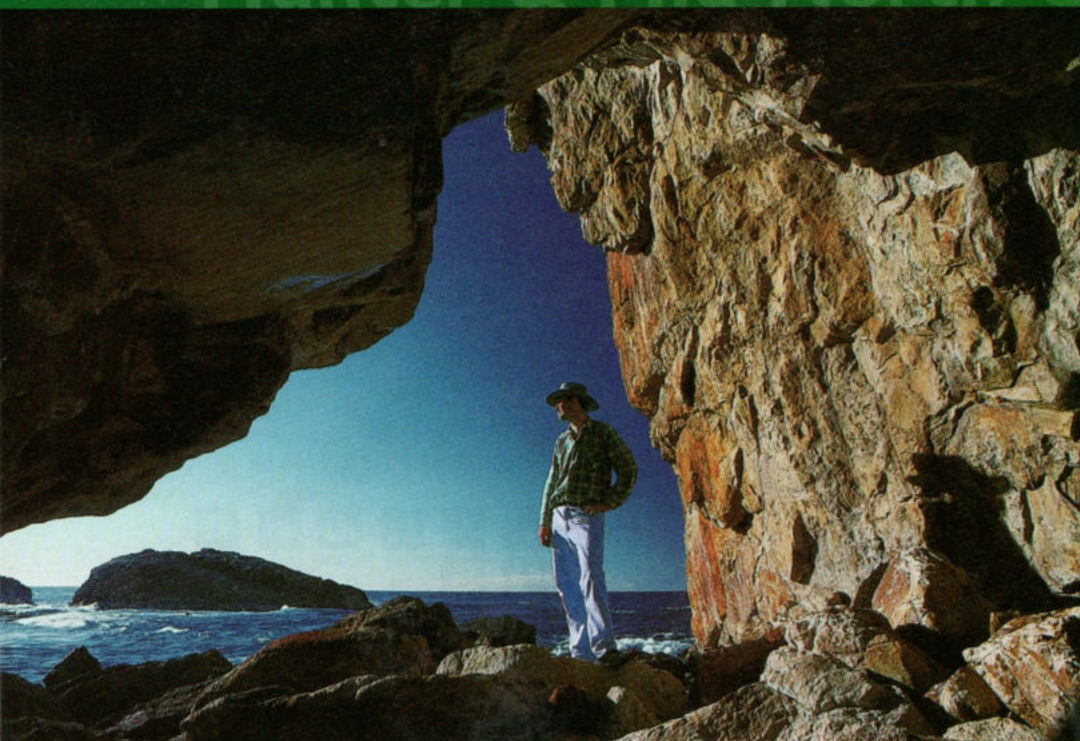
including National, Curracurrong and Wattamolla falls. Further south, you can look down on Fitzroy Falls in Morton National Park or take the paved walkway to Budderoo's Minnamurra Falls.

In north-east NSW, the Waterfall Way runs from Armidale to Coffs Harbour, connecting a string of national parks (many World Heritage listed) including Oxley Wild Rivers, New England, Cascade and Dorrigo. The area boasts many of the state's greatest falls, including Dangars, Ebor, Crystal Shower and the massive Wollomombi. For more information contact the NPWS Armidale office on 6776 4260 or pick up a copy of the free brochure, *National Parks of the Waterfall Way*.



Fitzroy Falls in Morton National Park. J. Winter/NPWS





Diamond Head, Crowdy Bay National Park.

## 11 Dooragan National Park

1042 ha



**Highlights** Local Aboriginal legend tells of the death of three brothers. North Brother Mountain, at the heart of the park, is the resting place of Dooragan, the youngest. The mountain supports a variety of coastal forests and rainforests, providing habitat for gliders, bats and koalas.

**Activities** Enjoy grand coastal views from the mountain summit, which is accessible by sealed road. The three wheelchair-accessible lookouts and picnic area have facilities and walking tracks.

**Access** 10 km east of Kew. Take the Kew Road to Laurieton, turn right onto the Captain Cook Bicentennial Road.

Port Macquarie, 6586 8300

## 12 Dorrigo National Park

11,871 ha



**Highlights** Dorrigo's renowned boardwalks make its rainforests on the edge of the Great Escarpment one of Australia's most accessible World Heritage areas.

**Activities** Venture out on the Skywalk (70 metres, level) and Walk with the Birds (500

metres return, seating provided) — both are suitable for wheelchairs. Picnic with the brush turkeys at The Glade, visit the Dorrigo Rainforest Centre and Canopy Cafe or take one of the frequent *Discovery* tours. Try the waterfall tracks such as the Wonga Walk, a three hour sealed return walk through World Heritage rainforest, or one of the more challenging walks at Never Never picnic area.

**Access** 2 km east of Dorrigo on Dome Road.

Dorrigo, 6657 2309

### Dorrigo Rainforest Centre

Dorrigo National Park  
Dorrigo  
Ph: 6657 2309



The Dorrigo Rainforest Centre and Skywalk are only an hour's drive west of Coffs Harbour. A new interactive display guides visitors of all ages through different aspects of this World Heritage-listed rainforest, and staff can provide detailed information on national parks throughout north-east NSW. The Rainforest Shop (open 7 days a week, 9 am to 5 pm) sells specialised books and guides, posters, prints, cards, local crafts, T-shirts and souvenirs with a rainforest theme. The Canopy Cafe (open 7 days a week, 9 am to 4 pm) offers delicious lunches, gourmet cakes and great coffee. All facilities are accessible, and there are wheelchairs and child carrypacks available. The centre is closed Christmas Day.

## 13 Dungir National Park

2500 ha

**Highlights** Ridges thick with blackbutt, brush box and blue gum and shaded rainforest gullies shelter koalas, yellow-bellied gliders and glossy black cockatoos. Bowra Sugarloaf Mountain looks out over the surrounding forest and distant coast.

**Activities** There are no picnic areas or walking tracks but you can reach Kosekai lookout by road (unsealed, 4WD needed in wet weather) or explore the mountain on foot if you're an experienced walker.

**Access** 20 km west of Bowraville on Kosekai Road off Taylors Arm Road.

Coffs Harbour, 6652 0900

## 14 Glenrock State Conservation Area

516 ha



**Highlights** A coastal strip, bounded by the suburbs of Merewether and Dudley, protect the last remnant of coastal (littoral) rainforest in the Newcastle region.

**Activities** Swim, surf or fish at Dudley or Burwood beach, picnic at Dudley Beach, or walk the Yeulerbah track, part of the Great North Walk.

**Access** 160 km north of Sydney, 5 km east of Charlestown off Burwood Road via Dudley Road, and 5 km south of Newcastle via the Pacific Highway.

Nelson Bay, 4984 8200

## 15 Hat Head National Park

7363 ha



**Highlights** A rich coastal environment with one of the largest dune systems in NSW and superb views from Hat Head and nearby Smoky Cape.

**Activities** Historic Smoky Cape Lighthouse offers tours and accommodation in the assistant lighthouse keeper's cottages (for bookings phone 6566 6301). Captain Cook lookout has wheelchair access, and there's a picnic area with facilities at Smoky Cape. Car-based and caravan camping are available at Smoky Beach and Hungry Head. Camping fees apply.



# Hunter & Mid North Coast



Above the canopy on the Dorrigo National Park skywalk.

**Access** 24 km north-east of Kempsey off the road to South West Rocks. \$6 per day vehicle entry fee.

Arakoon, 6566 6621

## 16 Junuy Juluum National Park 945 ha

**Highlights** A remnant of warm temperate rainforest on the slopes of Mt Campion, providing refuge for paradise riflebirds and sooty owls and a scenic backdrop to the town of Dorrigo.

**Activities** Lower Bielsdown Road is a pleasant drive skirting the northern boundary of the park. If you're an experienced walker, you'll enjoy a day walk to the summit of Mt Campion.

**Access** 10 km north of Dorrigo, off the Megan Road.

Dorrigo, 6657 2309

## 17 Karuah Nature Reserve 2742 ha



**Highlights** Karuah's six separate sections contain stands of spotted gum, ironbark and

bloodwood that protect koalas, wallabies and kangaroos.

**Activities** Mangrove areas along Deep Creek, Limeburners Creek and the Karuah River provide excellent fishing opportunities. Access to the river's edge is by 4WD, in dry weather only. Car-based camping areas with no facilities are provided at Double Wharf, Little Mountain and Tattersals.

**Access** 22 km north of Raymond Terrace via Bucketts Way (off the Pacific Highway) and Hobarts Road (unsealed).

Nelson Bay, 4984 8200

## 18 Kattang Nature Reserve 58 ha



**Highlights** The sharp cliff faces of Perpendicular Point jut out into the sea at the centre of the reserve, and Dooragan National Park provides a dramatic inland backdrop. Small pockets of rainforest are dominated by flowering coastal heathland.

**Activities** The Flower Bowl Circuit is a must if you're a native flower lover — visit in the early spring. There are great easy day walks with impressive views to Point Perpendicular.

**Access** 3 km east of Laurieton, 25 km south of Port Macquarie and 10 km from Kew off the Pacific Highway; enter off Bergalia Crescent or Charles Hamey Lookout, which are both off Camden Haven Road.

Port Macquarie, 6586 8300

## 19 Kooragang Nature Reserve 2926 ha



**Highlights** The largest single estuary wetlands reserve in NSW, providing a magnet for migratory shorebirds from the Northern Hemisphere.

**Activities** There are good bird viewing areas near Stockton Bridge. You can also visit the Kooragang Wetlands, a rehabilitation project on Ash Island, and explore the mangroves along the boardwalk.

**Access** 9 km north of Newcastle CBD. Follow the signs towards Raymond Terrace along the Pacific Highway, then turn right at the Kooragang Wetlands sign.

Nelson Bay, 4984 8200

## 20 Limeburners Creek Nature Reserve 9224 ha



**Highlights** The sparkling coastline of heathlands, banksia and blackbutt forest and the rare rainforests of Big Hill provide shelter for the threatened and well-camouflaged ground parrot. Limeburners Creek, Saltwater Lake and the surrounding sand ridges support an unusual mixture of vegetation communities and habitats.

**Activities** The beach is popular for swimming, surfing, fishing or just relaxing. Car-based and caravan camping is available at Point Plomer (plenty of facilities; for bookings phone 6583 8805), or Melaleuca rest area (basic facilities). Camping fees apply. Bring your own drinking water, provide your own firewood or purchase it on site. Amenities are wheelchair accessible.

**Access** 15 km south of Crescent Head off the Plomer Road. \$6 per day vehicle entry fee.

Arakoon, 6566 6621



# Hunter & Mid North Coast



Smoky Cape Lighthouse, Hat Head National Park

## 21 Lord Howe Island Marine Park 48,000 ha



**Highlights** The marine park surrounding Lord Howe Island contains the world's southernmost barrier coral reef. The island's marine environment holds over 300 species of algae (around one-tenth of which are unique to the area), over 450 species of fish (also around one-tenth unique to the area) and over 120 species of mollusc.

Green and Hawksbill turtles are common in summer, but may be observed throughout the year.

**Activities** Swimming, snorkelling and scuba diving are all popular in the crystal waters of the park, and boat trips and diving tours operate from the island. Accommodation is available in lodges on the island.

**Access** 700 km north-east of Sydney. The island can be reached by a regular air service from Sydney.

**Manager, Lord Howe Island Marine Park, 6563 2359**

## 22 Macquarie Nature Reserve 12 ha



**Highlights** The historic Roto House sits amidst a tranquil natural setting near the heart of Port Macquarie.

**Activities** Visit the nearby koala hospital and look for koalas in the trees. Enjoy a picnic lunch in the spacious gardens or on most days of the year volunteers can take you on a tour of the house. Wheelchair access is available to Roto House and verandahs.

**Access** In Port Macquarie, just off Lord Street.

**Port Macquarie, 6586 8300**  
**Roto House, 6584 2180**

## 23 Moonee Beach Nature Reserve 336 ha



**Highlights** A precious remnant of coastline just north of Coffs Harbour protecting rare headland plants, coastal littoral rainforest and a pristine estuary.

**Activities** There are great coastal views from the wheelchair-accessible headland lookout and walking tracks from Emerald Beach. Look At Me Now Headland is spiritually significant to local Aboriginal communities. Camping is not permitted but there are privately owned caravan parks at Moonee and Emerald Beach.

## Whale watching

In NSW, the best period for watching migrating humpback whales is as they travel north to their breeding grounds throughout June and in the first week of July. Around 150 to 200 whales generally pass our stretch of coast every day, most of them within sight of headland vantage points. Southern right whales can also be seen along the coast south of Newcastle, but in recent years they've been reported as far north as the Clarence River. Late morning and early afternoon are reasonably good times to whale watch, as the glare off the water doesn't make the tell-tale 'blow' too difficult to see.



Popular parks, headlands and lookouts for spotting whales include (from north to south): Cape Byron State Conservation Area; Broken Head Nature Reserve; Solitary Islands Marine Park; Hat Head National Park; Crowdy Bay National Park; Tomaree National Park; Barrenjoey Headland in Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park; North Head in Sydney Harbour National Park; Cape Solander in Botany Bay National Park; NSW Jervis Bay National Park; and Ben Boyd National Park.

Vessel-based whale watching is popular in NSW, but remember to keep your distance. Whales require 'personal space', and harassment may severely stress them – possibly causing accidents both for humans and whales. This is especially important in the case of the adults with calves, which may be either resting or suckling. During the mating season, males competing for females may engage in rough physical contact.

For more information on safe and enjoyable whale watching, contact your nearest NPWS office — see the back page for details.



# Hunter & Mid North Coast

**Access** 13–23 km north of Coffs Harbour off the Pacific Highway. Moonee Creek is on Moonee Beach Road; Look At Me Now Headland is on Dammerel Crescent at Emerald Beach.

K. Gillett/NPWS

Coffs Harbour, 6652 0900

## 24 Mount Royal National Park 6920 ha



**Highlights** An array of rainforest, shrubland and eucalypts provide habitats for threatened species such as the Hastings River mouse and parma wallaby.

**Activities** Enjoy bushwalking, picnicking and birdwatching in this unspoiled environment. The park is accessible by 2WD but there is no vehicle access at all in wet weather. The camping area off Main Range Road has gas barbecues and accessible toilets.

**Access** 50 km north of Singleton. Enter from Bridgeman Road off the New England Highway.

Bulga, 6574 5275

## 25 Muttonbird Island Nature Reserve 8 ha



**Highlights** Each year, thousands of muttonbirds come to the most significant breeding site in the state. The reserve is also a significant Aboriginal site.

**Activities** A paved walking track crosses the island between the birds' fragile burrows. Enjoy the seascape and passing whales (June to September) from the viewing platform, and great views of Solitary Islands Marine Park and adjacent coast. Camping is not permitted in the reserve but there's plenty of accommodation at Coffs Harbour.



Sheltered waterways in Myall Lakes National Park.

**Access** In Coffs Harbour at the eastern end of the northern breakwall at Coffs Harbour jetty.

Coffs Harbour, 6652 0900

## 26 Myall Lakes National Park 44,200 ha



**Highlights** One of the state's largest coastal lake systems — a Ramsar Wetland of International Significance — 40 km of beaches and rolling sand dunes make Myall Lakes one of the most visited parks in NSW. The Grandis, a magnificent 76-metre-high flooded gum, is one of the tallest trees in the state.

**Activities** The lakes and beaches are perfect for water activities — and if you don't have your own craft, you can hire one locally. There's car-based and caravan camping at Mungo Brush, Banksia Green, Stewarts and Lloyds, Old Gibber Track, Korsmans Landing, Violet Hill, Sunny Side, Shelly Beach, Neranie and Yagon (fees apply). Most camping areas offer basic facilities, but bring your own drinking water and firewood. Between Hawks Nest and Big Gibber you can go 4WD beach driving (except between Dark Point and Sandy Point; check before you go) but do not drive on the dunes or vegetation. The Grandis is accessible along Stoney Creek Road from either the Lakes Way or Old Pacific Highway. O'Sullivan's Gap picnic area, on the Old Pacific Highway 9 km north of Bulahdelah, offers short walks.

**Access** 35 km south of Forster off The Lakes Way. \$6 per day vehicle entry fee.

Pacific Palms, 6591 0300

Nelson Bay, 4984 8200

## Staying safe at the beach

National parks offer some of the most beautiful beaches in NSW. They're there to be enjoyed by everyone, but when you're swimming, walking or relaxing by the beach it's important to take precautions:

- At beaches patrolled by lifeguards, swim between the flags. At unpatrolled beaches take care when you're swimming as strong currents and dangerous rips (undertows) can occur even on still days. If surf beaches are too daunting, consider looking for a non-surf beach (e.g. on a bay).
- Don't swim or go to isolated beaches alone
- Only swim during daylight hours.

- Be careful walking on rocks: they can be very slippery, and a 'rogue' wave could wash you off.
  - Avoid marine stingers. Don't swim if bluebottles (stinging jellyfish) are visible in the water, and don't touch any octopuses in rockpools (the deadly blue-ringed octopus can be difficult to identify because it only turns blue several minutes after being angered).
  - Protect your skin by using sunscreen and wearing protective clothing and a hat.
  - Rock fishing can be very dangerous and is not encouraged.
- For more safety tips see pages 8, 32, 47 and 59.





Sea Acres Nature Reserve

## 27 Ngambaa Nature Reserve 10,555 ha



**Highlights** Ngambaa is located on the boundary between the Gumbayngirr and Djungutti language groups, and the name means 'tribe that lived between nations'. Large areas of old-growth forest protect a number of threatened species, such as the powerful owl, koala and giant barred frog.

**Activities** The scenic Tamban Forest Drive from the Pacific Highway near Kempsey leads to Cedar Park picnic area, where a short walking track reveals the delights of this rainforest remnant.

**Access** 20 km north of Kempsey along Tamban, Elliotts and Sanders roads from Eungai Creek or Collombatti, then Range Road from Frederickton (unsealed roads; 4WD needed in wet weather).

Coffs Harbour, 6652 0900

## 28 Nymboi-Binderay National Park 16,870 ha



**Highlights** The dramatic granite gorges and rainforest-lined banks of the rugged Nymboida River produce rapids renowned among white-water enthusiasts.

**Activities** Rafting is certainly the best way to fully appreciate the stunning beauty of the river and several commercial operators conduct tours in the park. If walking is more to your taste, you can wander through a magnificent stand of tallowwood trees and coachwood rainforest at Norman W Jolly Memorial Grove (wheelchair accessible). Picnicking, swimming and car-based camping (not suitable for caravans) are available at Platypus Flat (unsealed; 4WD when wet) and The Junction (4WD only) on the Nymboida River. Camping fees apply.

P. Green/NPWS

**Access** 25 km north of Dorrigo on Moonpar Road (unsealed; 4WD when wet) off Tyringham Road or Moses Rock Road (unsealed) from the village of Cascade. Access to the northern part of the park is on Black Mountain Road via Grafton, Nymboida or Glenreagh (unsealed; 4WD only).

Dorrigo, 6657 2309

Grafton, 6641 1500

## 29 Sea Acres Nature Reserve 76 ha



**Highlights** The Sea Acres coastal rainforest community is the largest and most diverse in the region. The forest runs right down to the beach, so you can enjoy the stillness and beauty or the roar of the surf.

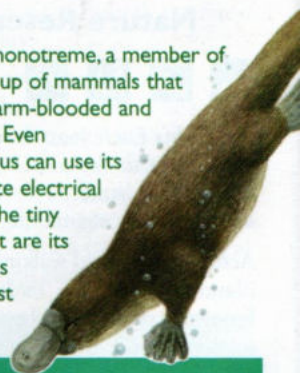
**Activities** Get into the rainforest canopy on the 1.3 km wheelchair-accessible boardwalk — a fee for the boardwalk applies at the privately run rainforest centre within the reserve. You can walk in to Shelly Beach off Pacific Drive and Miners Beach off Lighthouse Road.

**Access** In Port Macquarie on Pacific Drive.

Sea Acres Rainforest Centre, 6582 3355

### Platypus

The platypus is a monotreme, a member of a small, ancient group of mammals that lay eggs, but are warm-blooded and suckle their young. Even stranger, the platypus can use its bill to detect minute electrical fields given off by the tiny aquatic animals that are its prey. The platypus is found along the east coast of Australia.



## What does the National Parks and Wildlife Service do?



Most people know that the NPWS manages national parks and reserves — and their culturally significant features — throughout NSW. But we do a lot more as well, including:

- establishing and maintaining tracks, visitor centres, displays, and facilities for visitors to enjoy;
- conserving protected native animals and plants throughout NSW;
- fostering community awareness, understanding and appreciation of nature and our cultural heritage;
- investigating and acquiring land for the state's system of parks and reserves so that it conserves a complete range of the natural and cultural environments of NSW;
- working with local government and community groups to protect and conserve wildlife and natural areas outside national parks;

- managing historic places within parks and reserves and acquiring places of historic significance; and
- identifying, protecting and managing wilderness throughout the state.

Among our many responsibilities, we have a special role working in partnership with Aboriginal communities in the management of parks and conservation of objects, places and landscapes of special importance — see page 10.

If you'd like to help support the work of the NPWS, the Foundation for National Parks and Wildlife is a registered charity that raises money through donations, bequests and sponsorships, and provides vital support for conservation efforts. You can telephone the Foundation on 9221 1949, email on [fnpw@fnpw.com.au](mailto:fnpw@fnpw.com.au), check the website at [www.fnpw.com.au](http://www.fnpw.com.au) or send a donation to GPO Box 2666, Sydney NSW 2001. Donations are tax deductible.



# Hunter & Mid North Coast

A. Hutchings



Near the Dingo Tops forest park in Tapin Tops National Park

## Sea Acres Rainforest Centre

Pacific Drive, Port Macquarie  
Ph: 6582 3355



The privately run rainforest centre offers guided boardwalk tours, a theatre and ecology display. Dine indoors or under the palms in the centre's rainforest cafe. The shop provides information on local national parks and sells a wide range of books, posters, clothing and gifts. There's an entry fee to the boardwalk and display — the fee also applies to NPWS annual pass holders. The centre is open 7 days, 9 am to 4.30 pm (closed Christmas Day).

## 30 Seaham Swamp Nature Reserve 11 ha



**Highlights** The swamp is an important habitat for the cattle egret and numerous other bird species. The reserve also protects a historic quarry containing scientifically important 90–120 million-year-old sediments from ancient glacial thaw water.

**Activities** The observation tower makes an excellent spot to watch birds in their natural state. Camping is not permitted.

**Access** On the corner of Torrence and Warren Streets in Seaham township, 12 km north-west of Raymond Terrace.

Nelson Bay, 4984 8200

## 31 Tapin Tops National Park 10,976 ha



**Highlights** Brushwood and moist eucalypt forest gives way to rainforest dominated by corkwood, crabapple, sassafras and booyong trees, while yellow carabean are found in the higher areas. The unique habitat is home to threatened species such as the parma wallaby, squirrel glider and sphagnum frog.

**Activities** Rowleys Lookout (1018 metres, strenuous 45-minute walk from carpark) offers a sweeping view of Head and Shoulders Cliff. Dingo Tops forest park, in the middle of the rainforest, has picnic facilities, forestry machinery relics and two walking trails. There's another picnic area at Potoroo, and car-based camping at the intersection of Knodingbul Road and Dingo Tops Road (short walk from carpark).

**Access** 44 km west of Wingham along the Dingo Tops Forest Road.

Port Macquarie, 6586 8300

## 32 The Glen Nature Reserve 2750 ha



**Highlights** The heavily forested catchment of Wards River boasts magnificent eucalypt stands and lush subtropical rainforest gullies. The reserve provides habitat for the squirrel glider, yellow-bellied glider, masked owl, Stephens banded snake and other threatened fauna.

**Activities** The 220 km Tops-to-Myall Heritage Walking Trail passes through the reserve. Numerous management trails provide varied bushwalking experiences, generally classified medium to hard grade. Car-based (but not caravan) camping is available at Wards Glen, in the west of the reserve, accessible by 2WD when dry.

**Access** 25 km south-east of Gloucester on Glen Road (unsealed) off Bucketts Way just south of Craven.

Barrington Tops, 6538 5300

Nelson Bay, 4984 8200

## 33 Tomaree National Park 2318 ha



**Highlights** Rocky headlands and plenty of white sandy beaches are backed by angophora and melaleuca forest and spring-flowering heath.

**Activities** Take a walk to the top of Tomaree Headland for superb views of Port Stephens and the coast, or to Fingal Island and explore the grounds of the Point Stephens Lighthouse. There's good rock and beach fishing and though camping isn't permitted, there's accommodation at nearby Shoal Bay and Nelson Bay. Nude bathing is permitted at Samurai Beach.

**Access** 50 km north of Newcastle, 3 km north-east of Nelson Bay off Shoal Bay Road or Gan Gan Road.

Nelson Bay, 4984 8200

## 34 Towarri National Park 4787 ha



**Highlights** Sandstone outcrops and scenic outlooks feature in a rugged landscape harbouring rainforests, snow gums and large grass tree stands.

**Activities** There are no defined paths at this stage, but steep hills and spectacular summit views offer a rewarding challenge for experienced bushwalkers. The Washpools picnic and camping area has wheelchair access and is a great place to bring the family.

**Access** 25 km north-west of Scone via Middlebrook Road (unsealed) and off Cressfield Road.

Scone, 6540 2300

Nelson Bay, 4984 8200



# Hunter & Mid North Coast



Tomaree National Park

## 35 Ulidarra National Park 680 ha

**Highlights** Near Coffs Harbour and adjoining Bruxner Park Flora Reserve, Ulidarra's old-growth coastal eucalypt forest provides habitats for a diverse range of fauna, including koalas, masked owls, wompoo pigeons and little bent-wing bats.

**Activities** The drive through the park from Bruxner Park to Karangi offers lovely views, and you're sure to find a cool spot for a picnic beside Bucca Bucca Creek on Shelter Road.

**Access** 5 km north of Coffs Harbour via Swans Road off Bruxner Park Road, or Convincing Ground Road off Coramba Road (unsealed roads; 4WD needed when wet).

Coffs Harbour, 6652 0900

## 36 Wallingat National Park 6557 ha



**Highlights** Whoota Lookout, one of the best natural viewing platforms on the mid-north coast, provides magnificent views of the park's eucalypt forests and 100 km of coastline from Port Macquarie to Port Stephens.

**Activities** Walking tracks lead from Sugar Creek through cabbage palm and flooded gum forests. There are picnic facilities at Sugar Creek, Gur-um-bee ('white gum tree') and Wallingat River. Car-based camping (fees apply, caravans not recommended) is available by the Wallingat River.

**Access** 30 km south-east of Forster along the Lakes Way and Sugar Creek Road. All roads within the park are unsealed — take care after rain.

Pacific Palms, 6591 0300  
Nelson Bay, 4984 8200

## 37 Watagans National Park 7751 ha



**Highlights** This park protects the headwaters of the Congewai and Quorrobolong creeks, which flow into the Hunter River, and the Gap and Dora creeks, which feed Lake Macquarie.

## The different types of parks

This guide describes nearly 200 protected areas in NSW, each with its own distinctive landscapes and native plant and animal communities. But these are just the most popular of over 600 protected areas in NSW. Some parks are managed to provide for a wide variety of recreational activities, while others are more fragile — some are even closed to visitors for conservation purposes. This is one of the reasons there are different categories of protected areas — different natural and cultural environments require different types of protection and different sorts of visitor access.

**National parks** are relatively large areas that protect important ecosystems, natural or cultural features or outstanding landscapes. They're managed to provide sustainable access and enjoyment for visitors.

**Historic sites** are areas associated with a person, event or historical theme, or which include a building, place, feature or landscape of cultural significance.

**Nature reserves** are natural areas of special scientific interest that are mainly established to conserve their native plant and animal communities.

**State conservation areas**, previously known as state recreation areas, often contain important natural environments and usually offer plenty of recreation opportunities. The name change reflects a shift in focus to include conservation objectives as well as recreation, although this category doesn't rule out mining interests.

**Regional parks** contain natural or modified environments that are well suited for recreation. Situated near large population centres, they offer open space and plenty of options for visitor activities (for example, walking dogs on a leash, which is not allowed in other protected areas).

**Marine parks** are unique and outstanding marine areas, set aside to conserve saltwater plants and animals and co-managed by the NPWS and NSW Fisheries. They're divided into zones that provide complete protection for wildlife or allow varying levels of sustainable commercial and recreational activities.

**Aboriginal areas** see page 10.

**Wilderness areas** see page 13.



# Hunter & Mid North Coast

**Activities** Magnificent red cedar and Illawarra flame trees line the walk to Gap Creek Falls, where the lookout provides marvellous views of rainforest gullies, while Monkey Face Lookout sits above the Martinsville Valley. Boarding House Dam picnic area, set among large blackbutt and blue gum trees, offers rainforest walks along the creek, or a paddle on a hot summer's day. Car-based camping is available at the small Bangalow and Gap Creek camping areas adjacent to Bangalow Road, 3.8 km and 4.8 km respectively from the Mt Faulk Road intersection.

**Access** 150 km north of Sydney, 30 km south-west of Newcastle. Enter via Martinsville Road (unsealed) from Cooranbong, Mt Faulk Road (unsealed) from Freemans Waterhole, or Watagan Road (unsealed) from Cessnock. All roads are 2WD accessible in dry weather only.

Lake Munmorah, 4358 0400



Gap Creek Falls, Watagans National Park

## 38 Wingham Brush Nature Reserve 8 ha



**NEW ENTRY**

**Highlights** This remnant of sub-tropical floodplain rainforest is one of the most significant maternity sites in NSW for the grey-headed flying-fox.

**Activities:** The short looped walk with boardwalk sections is ideal for early morning birdwatching (species include Lewin's honeyeater, white-headed and topknot pigeons, brown-cuckoo dove, figbird and green catbird). The adjoining riverside reserve provides picnic and toilet facilities.

**Access:** Enter via Isabella and Farquhar Streets, Wingham.

Taree 6552 4097

## 39 Woko National Park 8598 ha



**Highlights** The steep and rugged landscape features large areas of rainforest, moist eucalypt forest and impressive rock outcrops. The tranquil Manning River is a wonderful spot to sit and enjoy the surroundings.

**Activities** If you're an adventurous bushwalker, you'll be rewarded with dramatic scenery and wonderful birdwatching opportunities, but remember that the terrain is steep. Car-based and caravan camping is available on the Manning River bank (fees apply), where campers can enjoy a swim. Two walking tracks provide access to dry rainforests and the escarpment above the camping area.

**Access** 35 km north of Gloucester via Curricabark Road (unsealed) off Thunderbolts Way (Walcha Road).

Barrington Tops, 6538 5300  
Nelson Bay, 4984 8200

## Discovery tours of national parks

Make the most of your national park visit on one of our *Discovery Walks, Talks or Tours*. Developed and led by specialist *Discovery Rangers*, *Discovery* activities will teach you more about the environment around you, and the history that created it. Activities include:

- Spotlight walks, where you'll uncover the hidden world of nocturnal wildlife;
- Relaxing canoe tours along estuaries and through mangrove environments;
- Coastal strolls, where you'll learn about the fragile sand dunes and seek out the inhabitants of rockpools;
- Tag-along driving tours in the outback;
- Springtime wildflower walks, led by local experts who know all the best spots;
- Snorkelling tours through the rich underwater environments of marine parks; and

- Eco-Ranger activities, where school students carry out biodiversity surveys in local bushland.

The Aboriginal *Discovery* program gives you a chance to learn about the culture and heritage of local Aboriginal people in areas like the Blue Mountains, Jervis Bay, Sydney's southern outskirts, and parts of western NSW.

*Discovery* tours are suitable for people of all ages. Most are available in the school holidays, but in the Sydney region they're conducted throughout the year. Tours and activities can be tailored to suit the needs of particular individuals or groups, such as schools, social clubs or conferences. There's a fee for most tours, and numbers are limited so bookings are essential.

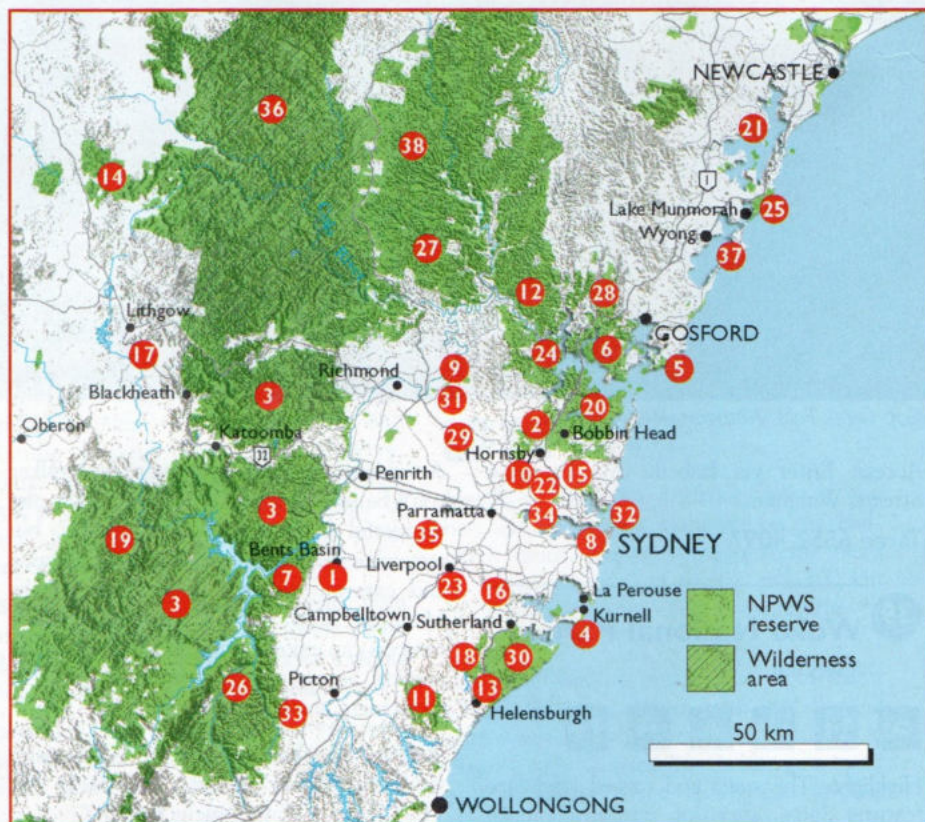
For more information on *Discovery* activities available in the area you'll be visiting, call the NPWS on 1300 361 967 or visit the website on [www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au](http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au). There are also privately run tours and activities in many national parks areas; for information contact a local tourism office.



# Sydney & Surrounds



*Sydney is blessed with sheltered deep-water bays rimmed by bush, pockets of remnant natural bush throughout the suburbs and an outer green belt of diverse parks and wilderness. Around the city, sites tell the story of historic meetings of cultures and early European occupation. To the north, Brisbane Waters and the Hawkesbury River are a tangle of quiet, tree-lined bays; to the west, the age-old massive landscapes of the Blue Mountains protect sandstone cliff-lines and World Heritage bushland. Heading south, Australia's oldest national park links Metropolitan Sydney to the great southern escarpment, offering shaded valley walks a short hop from the city. Visit [www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/sydney](http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/sydney)*



## 1 Bents Basin State Conservation Area 48 ha



**Highlights** The Basin forms a deep water-hole, part of a gorge on the Nepean River between Camden and Penrith, that's a popular spot for people escaping Sydney.

**Activities** Enjoy water-based activities such as swimming and canoeing. There are picnic areas with barbecues, fireplaces and accessible toilet facilities (though the Basin is not accessible by wheelchair). Car-based and caravan camping is available in the camping area (bookings required and fees apply).

Access 70 km west of Sydney, 25 km south of Penrith along Wolstenholme Avenue off

Greendale Road from Wallacia in the north or Liverpool in the east. \$6 per day vehicle entry fee.

Bents Basin, 4774 8662

## 2 Berowra Valley Regional Park 3870 ha



**Highlights** An area of natural bushland along the Berowra Creek Valley, one of the deep and scenic gorges that dissect the Hornsby Plateau. The park protects a rich diversity of flora and fauna including the koala, spotted-tailed quoll and powerful owl.

**Activities** There are extensive walking tracks, including a section of the Great North Walk, and scenic lookouts at Barnett's Road Reserve and Galston Gorge. Canoeing is popular on Berowra Creek from Crosslands Reserve. Picnic

facilities are provided in many areas, including Crosslands Reserve, Barnett's Road Reserve and Blue Gum picnic area. Backpack camping is permitted at approved locations along the Great North Walk. Due to bushfire threat, gas fires (rather than wood) are preferred throughout the park.

Access 24 km north-west of Sydney. The main access point is Crosslands Reserve at the end of Somerville Road, Hornsby Heights.

Bobbin Head Information Centre,  
9472 8949

Hornsby Shire Council, 9847 6791

## 3 Blue Mountains National Park 266,859 ha



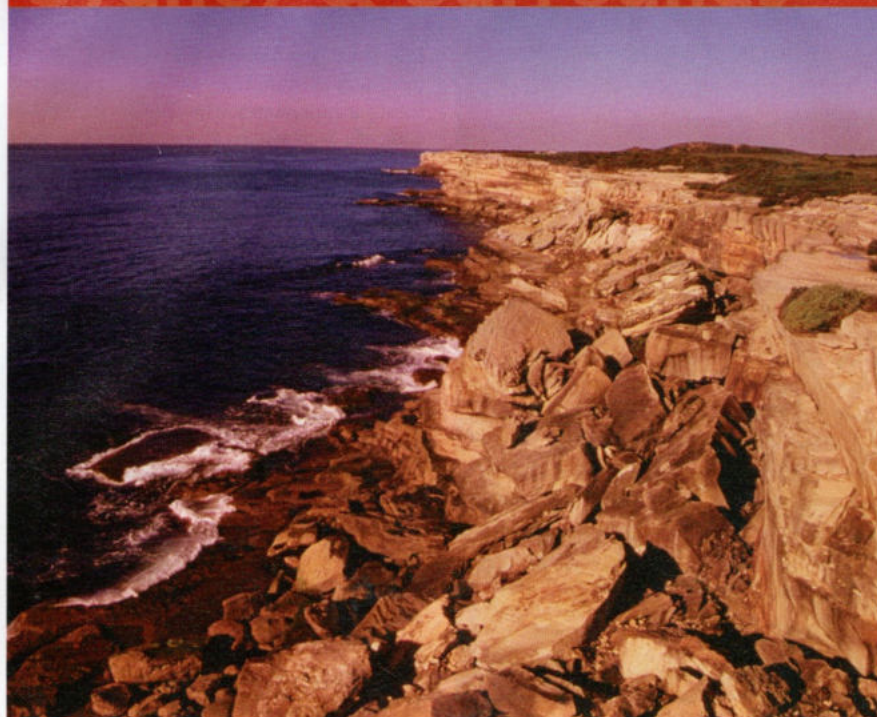
**Highlights** A World Heritage landscape that once intimidated explorers but now delights visitors. Famous lookouts and waterfalls around Govetts Leap (Blackheath), Echo Point (Katoomba) and Wentworth Falls provide panoramic views of open forest and huge sandstone cliffs.

**Activities** Over 140 km of walking tracks of all grades (some accessible for people with a disability) in diverse settings make the Blue Mountains a bushwalker's paradise. See the Three Sisters from the Giant Stairway at Echo Point, or explore the historic Mt Werong and Ruby Creek area (south of Oberon). The NPWS Heritage Centre at Blackheath and visitor centres at Echo Point and Oberon provide information on local walking tracks. The Fairfax Heritage Track at Blackheath is a wheelchair-accessible track to Govetts Leap Lookout, and the Conservation Hut and Wentworth Falls picnic area also have great views that are wheelchair accessible. A Discovery program of walks and activities operates every weekend and during school holidays.

Car-based camping is available at Euroka (near Glenbrook; bookings required and camping fees apply, book at Richmond); Murphys Glen (near Woodford); Ingar



# Sydney & Surrounds



Cape Solander, Botany Bay National Park

picnic area (drive from Wentworth Falls; camp a short walk from carpark); Perrys Lookdown (near Blackheath; short walk from carpark); Batsh Camp (short walk from carpark) and Mt Werong on the Oberon-Colong Stock Route to Yerranderie. Backpack camping is permitted in most areas (for details phone Blackheath).

**Access** 50–110 km west of Sydney with entry points off the Great Western Highway between Glenbrook and Mt Victoria, and the Oberon-Colong Stock Route. Close to railway stations at Glenbrook, Wentworth Falls, Leura, Katoomba, Blackheath and Mt Victoria. \$6 per day vehicle entry fee at Glenbrook only.

**Upper:** Blackheath, 4787 8877  
**Eastern:** Richmond, 4588 5247  
**Western:** Oberon, 6336 1972

## Blue Mountains Heritage Centre and National Parks Shop

Govetts Leap Road, Blackheath  
 Ph: 4787 8877, Fax: 4787 8514



The centre provides information on Blue Mountains National Park and surrounding areas, an interactive educational display, video screenings and a gallery. You can purchase National Parks walking track guides; maps; books on the Blue Mountains, Aboriginal history, and flora and fauna; and Australian-made souvenirs, clothing and gifts. Open 7 days, 9 am to 4.30 pm (closed Christmas Day).

## 4 Botany Bay National Park 458 ha



**Highlights** The two headlands of Botany Bay (La Perouse and Kurnell) are rich in Aboriginal and European history. In 1770 the area was the meeting place of cultures, and it still is today.

**Activities** At La Perouse you can take a tour of Bare Island Fort, learn about the area at Lapérouse Museum and Visitor Centre, or enjoy one of the local beaches (excellent for diving). At Kurnell visit the *Discovery Centre's* museum and shop, or join an Aboriginal *Discovery Ranger* for an insight into living with the land — phone 9542 0649 for *Discovery* information and bookings. The Banks–Solander track is a self-guided walk, the Monument Track is self-guided and wheelchair-accessible, and Cape Solander provides a superb vantage point for watching seasonal whale migrations.

**Access** 15–30 km south of Sydney. Entry to La Perouse is from Anzac Parade. Entry to Kurnell is from the end of Captain Cook Drive. \$6 per day vehicle entry fee at Kurnell.

Kurnell, 9668 9111  
 La Perouse, 9311 3379 or 9247 5033  
 (tour bookings)

### Caley's grevillea

This endangered shrub is now restricted to a small area in Sydney's northern suburbs — much of its habitat has been destroyed by land clearing, dumped rubbish and weeds. The NPWS has developed a recovery plan for the species and is working with local councils, government agencies and other land managers to conserve its natural habitat.



## World Heritage in NSW

World Heritage areas are places considered to be of such outstanding value they must be conserved for all time. They can be natural wonders or monuments and landscapes of human culture, and include the pyramids of Egypt, the Great Wall of China and the Great Barrier Reef. At last count, there were 730 sites inscribed on the UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) World Heritage list, and three of them are in mainland NSW.

The Central Eastern Rainforest Reserves of Australia are 370,000 ha of rainforest pockets strung along the Great Escarpment in north-east NSW and south-east Qld. The reserves cover more than 50 parks and reserves — from Barrington Tops to Mount Warning — and include the largest expanse of subtropical rainforest in the world. The forests protect an extraordinarily

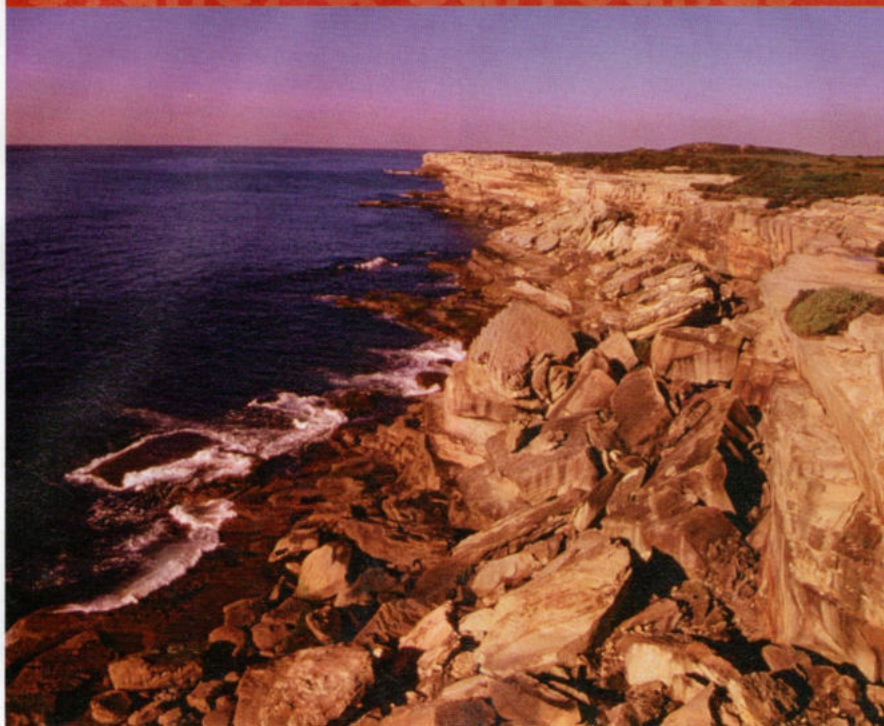
diverse range of plant and animal species, including more than 200 that are rare or threatened.

Willandra Lakes is a 240,000 ha region of ancient dry lake beds centred on Mungo National Park in the Murray-Darling basin. Archaeological sites in this semi-arid place have revealed evidence of some of Australia's earliest people and offered unique opportunities for scientific research.

The newly-listed million-hectare Greater Blue Mountains Area has been described as a natural laboratory for the evolution of eucalypts. In the mountains' diverse plant communities, you can trace the changing nature of the Australian environment — from geological shifts and climate variations, through to the impact of Aboriginal settlement and European colonisation.



# Sydney & Surrounds



Cape Solander, Botany Bay National Park

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# Sydney & Surrounds

## Discovery Centre, Botany Bay National Park

Kurnell  
Ph: 9668 9111



The centre's exhibition 'Eight Days that Changed the World' is an interpretation of the first contact between Aboriginal people and the crew of the *Endeavour* under the command of James Cook. Displays provide information about this highly sensitive coastal peninsula, with its wetlands, heathlands and woodland forest communities — direct descendants of those studied by Joseph Banks and Daniel Solander, who accompanied Cook in 1770. The display areas and toilets are wheelchair accessible. The shop has a range of books, maps, gifts, souvenirs and refreshments. Open 10 am to 4.30 pm every weekend (closed Christmas Day); also open 11 am to 3 pm weekdays.



### Little penguin

Smallest of all the penguins, the little or fairy penguin grows to only 45 cm tall.

The only known colony of these flightless seabirds in mainland NSW is in a secluded cove in Sydney Harbour near Manly.

## Lapérouse Museum and Visitor Centre, Botany Bay National Park

Cable Station, Anzac Parade  
La Perouse  
Ph: 9311 3379

The museum stands on the site of the first landing of the First Fleet in January 1788, followed days later by the French explorer Comte de Lapérouse. The museum has exhibitions on Australian history and La Perouse community heritage. Take a tour of Bare Island Fort on weekends; phone 9247 5033 for school holiday programs and special group activities. Open Tuesday to Sunday, 10 am to 4 pm (closed Christmas Day and Good Friday).

## 5 Bouddi National Park

1216 ha



**Highlights** This park has a series of small, beautiful beaches beneath forests, steep hills and cliffs. Maitland Bay is at the heart of the 300 ha Marine Extension, one of the first in NSW, where all marine life is protected.

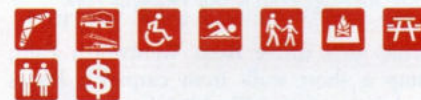
**Activities** There are opportunities for fishing (except in the 'marine extension' between Gerrin Point and Bombi Point), but take care in all ocean-facing areas. Drop in at the

Maitland Bay Information Centre, staffed by local volunteers on weekends, for information about the park. Car-based camping is available at Putty Beach, (short walk from carpark; campervans and camper trailers not allowed; gas barbecues, toilets, town water, no showers) and there's backpack camping at Little Beach (700 metres from carpark, gas barbecues, composting toilets, bring your own water) and Tallow Beach (1 km from carpark, limited facilities). Camping fees apply and bookings are essential.

**Access** 95 km north of Sydney, 19 km south-east of Gosford along Avoca Drive and Scenic Road. \$6 per day vehicle entry fee at Putty Beach. Catch a Busways bus from Gosford Railway Station (phone 4368 2277 for details).

Gosford, 4320 4280

## 6 Brisbane Water National Park 11,455 ha



**Highlights** This sandstone landscape is rich in Aboriginal art. You can see engravings at Bulgandry on Woy Woy Road (accessible boardwalk, but take care if sight-impaired as boardwalk is raised), and there are sweeping water views from Warrah Trig and Staples Lookout.

**Activities** Somersby Falls (accessible toilets) and Gurrakool picnic areas have excellent picnic facilities and forest walks. Backpack

## Bushfire in NSW

Fire management is a very complex issue — the Australian landscape has a long history of fire, and the challenge is not only to protect lives and property, but to maintain the diversity of native plants and animals. For more information on how NPWS is involved in managing fires, see [www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au](http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au).

The bushfire season in NSW usually runs from October to March. To check on current fire activity or find out whether a park is open, see the fire update page on our website, call 1300 361 967 (seven days a week during business hours), call your local NPWS office or go to the Rural Fire Service website at [www.rfs.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au).

If you're planning a visit to a park or a reserve during the fire season, keep these points in mind:

- Always obey park closure and safety signs and any instructions from a park officer.
- Use electric torches in and around tents.
- Use gas or electric barbecues where they're provided, otherwise use a portable gas stove.
- In areas where firewood is provided or you can bring your own, use a designated fire place and extinguish your fire by pouring

water over the flames and smothering the coals with soil.

- Always extinguish your fire and turn off fuel lanterns and stoves before you leave or go to bed.
- Never light or rekindle a fire with flammable liquids.
- During a **total fire ban**, no fires may be lit in national parks and reserves, including fires in designated fireplaces, barbecues and stoves that use gas or liquid fuels. On days of total fire ban, consider postponing your trip.
- When a **park fire ban** is imposed within a park or reserve, you may be able to use a gas or electric stove — check with the local NPWS office — otherwise the rules are the same as a total fire ban.
- On days of high fire risk, the NPWS may close some or all of a park to ensure public safety and reduce the likelihood of fire. Call your local NPWS office or check our website for details before you go.
- If you're caught in the bush during a fire, find a stream, river, clearing or large rock outcrop and prepare to shelter there — don't try to out-run a bushfire.
- Call 000 to report signs of fire or suspicious behaviour.



# Sydney & Surrounds

camping is available for walkers using the Great North Walk, but there are no facilities. No fires are permitted; fuel stoves only.

**Access** 60 km north of Sydney, 9 km south-west of Gosford. Girrakool is near Old Sydney Town off the Pacific Highway; Somersby Falls is along Somersby Falls Road off Wisemans Ferry Road. \$6 per day vehicle entry fee at Somersby Falls and Girrakool picnic areas.

Gosford, 4320 4280

J. Winter/NPWS



Katoomba Falls Track, Blue Mountains National Park

## 7 Burragorang State Conservation Area 17,642 ha



**Highlights** Burragorang Lookout is a window on the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area and provides breathtaking views of Lake Burragorang and the Nattai wilderness at any time of day.

**Activities** Shaded tables and barbecues are ideal for family picnics. Viewing points provide scenic vistas unparalleled in the district and open areas provide play opportunities for the kids.

**Access** 80 km south-west of Sydney, 20 km west of Camden along Burragorang Road. Open 10 am to 5 pm daily. \$6 vehicle entry fee.

Picton, 4677 0859

## 8 Cadmans Cottage Historic Site



**Highlights** Built in 1816, Cadmans Cottage is one of only a handful of Sydney buildings that remain from the first 30 years of the colony. Over the years this sandstone cottage has been a water transport headquarters, a sailors' home and a water police station, among other things. It used to be beside the water, but since the construction of Circular Quay the harbour has 'moved' 100 metres away.

**Activities** The cottage now houses the Sydney Harbour National Park Information Centre (see page 3). On the lower level there's a fascinating (free) exhibition on the building's history, its relationship to Sydney Cove, and life in early Sydney.

**Access** In Sydney at 110 George Street, The Rocks. Walk from Circular Quay Railway Station or catch any bus headed for Circular Quay or The Rocks.

The Rocks, 9247 5033

www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au

## 9 Cattai National Park 424 ha



**Highlights** The Cattai Farm area, originally a land grant to First Fleet assistant surgeon Thomas Arndell, features Arndell's 1821 cottage, historic grain silos and ruins of a windmill believed to be the oldest industrial building in NSW. In a separate section, nearby Mitchell Park features a variety of plant communities, including rare riverine rainforest.

**Activities** Cattai Farm has grassy picnic areas, barbecues and shelter sheds beside the Hawkesbury River, and car-based camping is available year round (bookings essential). Mitchell Park has an extensive network of walking tracks, and there are picnic areas with barbecues beside scenic Cattai Creek.

**Access** 55 km north-west of Sydney, 13 km north of Windsor off the Cattai-Wisemans Ferry road (unsealed sections). \$6 per day vehicle entry fee.

Windsor, 4572 3100

## 10 Dalrymple-Hay Nature Reserve 11 ha



**Highlights** The reserve's stand of blue gum high forest is one of Sydney's last remaining,

and is listed as an endangered ecological community under the Threatened Species Conservation Act.

**Activities:** Escape from the busy rush of Sydney life on a walk among tall blue gums and blackbutts, surrounded by a variety of native birds, small mammals and reptiles.

**Access:** In the suburb of St Ives, 15 km north of Sydney CBD. Enter via Mona Vale Road, Rosedale Road or Vista Street.

Lane Cove, 9412 1811

## 11 Dharawal State Conservation Area and Nature Reserve 6161 ha



**Highlights** The Woronora Plateau, west of the Illawarra Escarpment, supports a complex and diverse range of threatened species and vegetation communities, including upland swamps, shale forests and western gully forests (which are prime koala habitat).

**Activities** Enjoy bushwalking or mountain biking along the extensive network of management trails. Picturesque creek crossings provide opportunities for a photo or a dip.

**Access** 45 km south-west of Sydney via the Princes Highway. Entry is from Darkes Forest Road or the Bulli-Appin Road.

Wollongong, 4225 1455

Sydney & Surrounds



## 12 Dharug National Park

14,850 ha



**Highlights** The multi-hued sandstone landscape forms part of Sydney's green belt and protects vital clear-water tributaries to the Hawkesbury River.

**Activities** Try the 1.6 km Grass Tree Circuit or stroll a section of the convict-built Great North Road, one of the great construction feats of the early colony and recognised as a National Engineering Landmark. Picnic at Mill Creek or Hazel Dell (both have tank water). Discovery walks, talks and tours are available year round. The park is also good for mountain biking (bikes must be walked up Devines Hill); phone the Gosford office for details. Car-based and caravan camping is available at Mill Creek, and backpack camping at Ten Mile Hollow (fees apply and bookings are required).

**Access** 40 km north-east of Windsor. Mill Creek is 5 km east of Wisemans Ferry along Wisemans Ferry Road.

Gosford, 4320 4280

## 13 Garawarra State Conservation Area

900 ha



**Highlights** Echidnas and lyrebirds make their homes among the rainforest patches and colourful, prickly heaths bordering Royal National Park.

**Activities** Enjoy a walk among magnificent trees and springtime wildflowers.

**Access** 3 km south of Waterfall. No car access but you can walk from Waterfall or Helensburgh railway stations; phone for details.

Audley, 9542 0648

## 14 Gardens of Stone National Park 15,010 ha



**Highlights** 'Pagoda' rock formations cluster near sandstone escarpments where erosion has sculpted beehive-shaped domes and other forms. Banksias, dwarf casuarinas and other wind-pruned heathland plants give the area its garden-like appearance.

Sydney & Surrounds



Banksias in Dharawal State Conservation Area

**Activities** There are no established walking tracks but you'll find plenty of scope for hard bushwalks. Baal Bone Gap has basic picnic facilities (4WD necessary). Backpack camping more than 200 metres from roads is permitted in most areas of the park, though camping is not permitted in caves or within 200 metres of limestone and only fuel stoves are permitted. There are no designated camping areas, but you can camp outside the park at Capertee or Glen Davis, or at Newnes in Wollemi National Park.

**Access** 160–175 km north-west of Sydney, 30 km north of Lithgow off the Mudgee Road via unsealed roads from Lidsdale to the south (4WD in wet weather) or via Capertee to the north.

Blackheath, 4787 8877

## 15 Garigal National Park

2203 ha



**Highlights** An impressive expanse of bush and sandstone country close to the heart of Sydney, with great water views.

**Activities** Davidson picnic area on Middle Harbour is a popular spot for boating and fishing and has accessible toilet facilities. Bushwalkers can enjoy the scenery from an extensive walking track system. Camping is not permitted in the park.

**Access** 12 km north of Sydney CBD. Entry to Davidson picnic area is from the south via Warringah Road. \$6 vehicle entry fee.

Forestville, 9451 3479



## 16 Georges River National Park 335 ha



**Highlights** Steep forested hillsides, plateaus and riverside flats conserve some of Sydney's best river habitat for native plants and animals.

**Activities** There are several popular riverside picnic areas, large and small, and a network of walking tracks. Stroll around peaceful Yeramba Lagoon, home to more than 100 bird species, or the Ridge Track, which offers spectacular river views.

**Access** 25 km south-west of Sydney along Henry Lawson Drive. \$6 per day vehicle entry fee.

Kurnell, 9668 9111

## 17 Hartley Historic Site

13 ha



**Highlights** Once a busy goldrush town, this well-preserved 19th-century village sits on the western edge of the Blue Mountains. The famous courthouse was built in the 1830s and was in operation for over 50 years. Absconding convicts, petty thieves, highway robbers, and the drunk and disorderly all came before the Hartley magistracy.

### Cumberland Plain land snail

Next time you go walking after rain in Western Sydney, try to avoid treading on this rare species of snail. The trouble is it looks almost the same as the common garden snail, with a few subtle differences — it's a bit smaller, has a little 'lip' on the edge of its shell, and is often greenish in colour. When young it has a much harder shell than a garden snail, though nowhere near hard enough to withstand being trodden on!



# Sydney & Surrounds



Broken Bay, Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park

**Activities** Stroll around the village or join a tour of the courthouse (tour fee applies). Visit the heritage shop and information centre for full details on what's available.

**Access** 120 km west of Sydney, 12 km south of Lithgow on the Great Western Highway. Open every day between 10 am and 4.30 pm.

Hartley, 6355 2117

## Hartley Historic Site Shop

Farmers Inn, Great Western Highway, Hartley  
Ph: 6355 2117



Based in one of Hartley's historic buildings, the shop has books, oil lamps, candlesticks, souvenirs and pens, as well as sweets and drinks. Open 7 days, 10 am to 4.30 pm (closed Christmas Eve and Christmas Day).

## 18 Heathcote National Park 2250 ha



**Highlights** The wild, rugged landscape is perfect for walkers and easily accessible from Sydney. In spring Gymea lilies give a scarlet glow to the gullies.

**Activities** Take one of the series of walking tracks through the beauty and diversity of

the park's rocky bushland, stopping for a swim in a hidden pool along the Heathcote creek gorge. Backpack camping is permitted at limited sites (permits and bookings essential, phone for details).

**Access** 35 km south of Sydney. There's no car access but you can walk in from Heathcote or Waterfall on the Illawarra train line.

Audley, 9542 0648

## 19 Kanangra-Boyd National Park 68,661 ha



**Highlights** Vast gorges, high lookouts and wild and scenic rivers lend Kanangra-Boyd's wilderness a rugged and dramatic grandeur. Thurat Spires, Kanangra Walls and Mt Cloudmaker provide sandstone scenery on a majestic scale.

**Activities** For experienced bushwalkers there are plenty of opportunities for extended walks and backpack camping. Wildlife abounds at Boyd Crossing, where car-based camping is available (fees apply). A pleasant 10-minute walk from Kanangra Walls carpark takes you to a lookout over the park, the only wheelchair-accessible facility.

**Access** 180 km west of Sydney near Jenolan Caves on Kanangra Road (unsealed but suitable for 2WD). \$6 per day vehicle entry fee.

Oberon, 6336 1972  
Blackheath, 4787 8877

## 20 Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park 14,894 ha



**Highlights** Ku-ring-gai Chase offers a rich variety of things to see and do in a natural setting adjacent to Sydney's northern suburbs. West Head, in the park's north-east, has some of Sydney's best water views, while Bobbin Head, on the western side, is well known for its waterways, picnic areas and walking tracks.

**Activities** Walking tracks reveal rugged scenery, quiet beaches and a wealth of wildflowers and birdlife. There are several picnic areas, some providing gas and electric barbecues, but no open fires are permitted within the park. Larger picnic shelters at Bobbin Head can be booked through the Bobbin Head Information and Retail Centre. You can see Aboriginal rock art on The Basin track, Echidna track and Red Hand track. Chase Alive volunteers conduct guided walks (phone 9457 9853). Camping is only permitted at The Basin, camping fees apply and bookings are required (phone 9974 1011). Access is via water taxi or ferry from Palm Beach; landing fees apply. There are marinas at Bobbin Head and Akuna Bay, and boat ramps at Appletree Bay and Akuna Bay. Historic Barrenjoey Lighthouse at Palm Beach offers stunning views of Broken Bay and the coast (access by uphill walking track; no toilets or drinking water at lighthouse site; for lighthouse tours phone 9247 5033).

**Access** 26 km north of Sydney CBD. Access to the western side is from Bobbin Head Road via the Pacific Highway (from the south), or from Ku-ring-gai Chase Road via the F3 Freeway (from the north). Access to the eastern side (West Head) is via Mona Vale Road. \$10 per day vehicle entry fee.

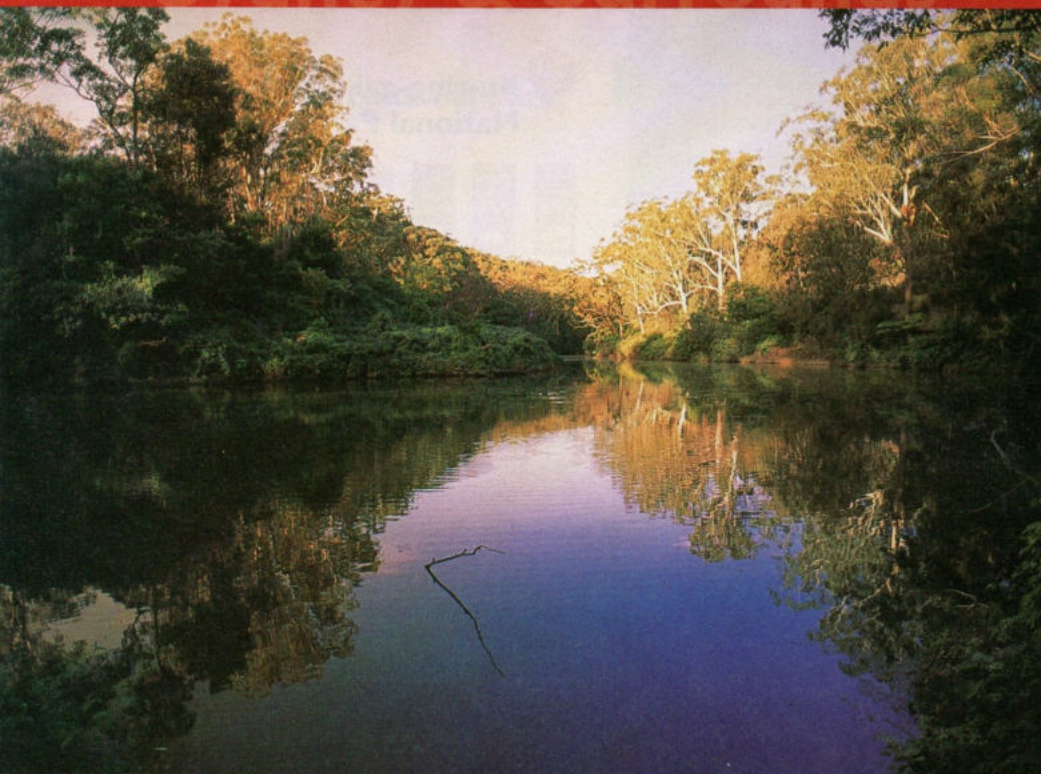
Bobbin Head Information and Retail Centre, 9472 8949

## Bobbin Head Information and Retail Centre

Ku-ring-gai Chase Road  
Bobbin Head Ph: 9472 8949

The centre in historic Bobbin Inn stocks books, maps, T-shirts, gifts, souvenirs, cards, posters and other products. Call or drop in for information on parks and reserves in northern Sydney. Open 7 days, 10 am to 4 pm (extended in peak times; closed Christmas Day).





Lane Cove River, Lane Cove National Park

## Kalkari Visitor Centre

Ku-ring-gai Chase Road  
Ph: 9472 9300



Located between Mt Colah and Bobbin Head, Kalkari is staffed by Chase Alive volunteers, who run activities in the reserves of north-eastern Sydney. The centre has information on Discovery activities and walks in the surrounding reserves. It offers videos, a 3D slide show and displays on a variety of themes. There's a wheelchair accessible walking track where you can see kangaroos and emus. Open 7 days, 9 am to 5 pm (closed Christmas Day).

## 21 Lake Macquarie State Conservation Area 667 ha



**Highlights** Coastal and lake shore forest, spread over 16 km of foreshore in six sections around Lake Macquarie, forms an important habitat for kangaroos, wallabies, gliders and many birds.

**Activities** There are opportunities for picnicking, bushwalking, fishing and boating. Wangi Wangi Point has an established

walking track network, a picnic area and fishing spots. Other bays, such as Awaba Bay (a newly constructed walking track along the foreshore has great water views, wildlife and flora) are great for birdwatching. Point Wolstonecraft (run by the Department of Sport and Recreation, phone 1800 819 244) has facilities and accommodation for a minimum of two nights. Car-based and caravan camping, onsite cabins and powered caravan sites are available at Wangi Point Tourist Park; fees apply and bookings are essential (phone 4975 1889).

**Access** 115 km north-east of Sydney, 50 km north-east of Gosford. Wangi Wangi Point is accessed via Dobell Drive, Awaba Bay is off The Ridgeway at Bolton Point, and Point Wolstonecraft is at the end of Kanangra Drive off the Pacific Highway.

Lake Munmorah, 4358 0400

## 22 Lane Cove National Park 601 ha



**Highlights** The picturesque Lane Cove River winds through a peaceful bushland valley within easy reach of the city centre, extending from East Ryde to Wahroonga/Pennant Hills.

**Activities** The river is the focus of most activities — visit the Kukundi Wildlife

M. Cullen

Shelter, take a stroll along the bank, or hire a row boat. Swimming is not advisable. There are dozens of picnic spots (bookings required for large groups, phone 9888 9160). You can stay overnight in cabins or powered/unpowered camping sites at the nearby caravan park (phone 9888 9133).

**Access** 10 km north-west of Sydney CBD. Enter from Delhi Road, Lane Cove Road or Lady Game Drive. \$6 per day vehicle entry fee. Bus services 550 and 551 operate regularly from Chatswood Station.

Lane Cove, 9412 1811

## 23 Leacock Regional Park 34 ha



**Highlights** Leacock regional park provides a welcome area of open space in Sydney's south west. From the ridge line there are views over the Holsworthy bushland and Sydney's skyline.

**Activities** Walking trails along the banks of the Georges River link the park with other facilities such as Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre. There's a lookout platform, barbecues and picnic facilities. As it's a regional park, not a national park, you can walk your dog on a leash.

**Access** 35 km west of Sydney CBD, 5 km south of Liverpool via Leacock Lane off the Hume Highway at Casula.

Parramatta, 9895 7420

## 24 Marramarra National Park 11,759 ha



**Highlights** A peaceful stretch of bushland overlooks the Hawkesbury River and Berowra Creek. There are excellent examples of mangrove forest at Big Bay, Pumpkin Point and Gentlemen's Halt.

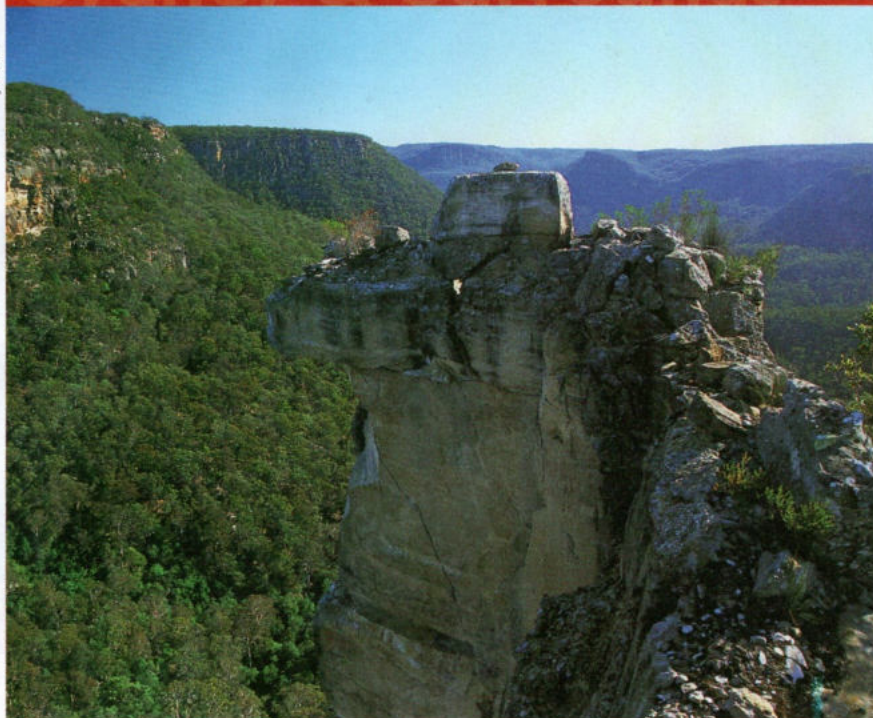
**Activities** Follow one of the many walking tracks, or go canoeing on Marramarra Creek or one of the little-known waterways and take a close look at local wildlife. There's bush camping at Gentlemen's Halt (access only via water or 10 km walk) and Marramarra Creek orchards (via water or 4 km walk).

**Access** 50 km north of Sydney. Enter via Bloodwood Road, Arcadia Road or Old Northern Road.

**Bobbin Head Information and Retail Centre, 9472 8949**

Any questions call 1300 361 967





Wilderness near Russels Needle in Nattai National Park

## 25 Munmorah State Conservation Area

1462 ha



**Highlights** 12 km of rugged coastline makes a fine site for water sports, coastal walks with magnificent ocean views and wildflower displays in spring.

**Activities** Launch a boat from the ramp at Elizabeth Bay or swim and surf at a variety of beaches (surf beaches are not patrolled, except Frazer Beach which is patrolled in Christmas and Easter holidays). Car-based camping is available at Frazer camping area

(gas barbecues, accessible toilets) and car-based and caravan camping at Freemans camping area (gas barbecues), camping fees apply, bookings essential. Only gas barbecues may be used in the park.

**Access** 115 km north-east of Sydney, 41 km north of Gosford via Elizabeth Bay Drive off the Pacific Highway. \$6 per day vehicle entry fee.

Lake Munmorah, 4358 0400

## 26 Nattai National Park

48,944 ha



**Highlights** The Warragamba dam catchment, within the Greater Blue Mountains World

Heritage Area, protects Sydney's water supply and its pristine bushland and wilderness is ideal for experienced bushwalkers.

**Activities** Minimum-impact bushwalking and backpack camping are permitted, except in the 3 km zone around Lake Burrigorang. Wilderness walks require a topographic map and compass, and all walkers need to be experienced and well-equipped. Notify the Picton office before setting out. Phone for advice and further information on available walks, camping, and the Nattai Reserve Systems.

**Access** 100 km south-west of Sydney, 30 km south-west of Camden off Wattle Ridge Road or Wombeyan Caves Road.

Picton, 4677 0859

## 27 Parr State Conservation Area

38,121 ha



**Highlights** A rugged and little-known area of steep gorges, cliffs and rock outcrops.

**Activities** Join one of the *Discovery* walks, talks or tours (including 4WD tours) that are conducted throughout the park and at Pierces Valley environmental education area. Backpack camping is available at Heartbreak Hill, 18 km from the eastern end of the park (phone Gosford 4324 4911 for details).

**Access** 35 km north of Windsor via Putty Road at Colo Heights, 8 km west of Wisemans Ferry (take the Webbs Creek ferry at Wisemans Ferry).

Richmond, 4588 5247  
Gosford, 4320 4280

## Dogs in national parks

National parks and reserves are refuges for native animals. Dogs and other domestic pets must not be taken into these areas because:

- Native animals see dogs as predators. The lasting scent left by dogs can easily scare small animals and birds away from their homes, often causing them to leave their young unprotected.
- Dog and cat faeces carry diseases that can be harmful to wildlife and people, and also add nutrients to the soil, increasing the spread of weeds.
- If dogs and other domestic pets have frightened native animals away from popular visitor areas, there will be no wildlife for visitors to see.

– Dogs can interfere with the enjoyment of other park visitors.

Approved assistance animals (guide dogs, hearing dogs etc) are exempt from this rule, to ensure our parks are accessible for everyone.

You can walk your dog on a leash in regional parks, such as Western Sydney Regional Park and Leacock Regional Park. These large, open spaces in urban environments are managed by the NPWS to give city residents plenty of recreational opportunities in pleasant, natural surroundings (remember to take a plastic bag to clean up after your dog). For more details contact the NPWS on 9895 7725. Phone State Forests of NSW for information on walking your dog in state forests 1300 655 687 or 9871 3377.





Audley Visitor Centre, Royal National Park

**28 Popran National Park**

3970 ha



**Highlights** Aboriginal sites are dotted throughout the spectacular sandstone cliff lines and gullies. The views from Mt Olive and the 248 track (accessible from Wisemans Ferry Road) are wonderful. Emerald Pool is just one of the pristine small creek catchments within the park.

**Activities** You can go bushwalking or mountain bike riding, or wander through the exceptional wildflower displays. Camping is not permitted in the park.

**Access** 65 km north of Sydney, 25 km west of Gosford north of the Hawkesbury River. Easy access from the F3 Sydney–Newcastle Freeway exiting at Mt White or Calga.

Gosford, 4320 4280

**29 Rouse Hill Regional Park** 43 ha

43 ha



**Highlights** In recent years the landscape surrounding historic Rouse Hill House, built between 1813 and 1818, has been gradually transformed from paddock to parkland, designed around existing features such as Second Ponds Creek, farm dams and remnant woodland.

## Sydney & Surrounds

**Activities** Cycling, walking and inline skating tracks explore the park, and there's adventure play equipment for toddlers and teenagers. Have a picnic or barbecue, or the two Iron Bark Ridge Pavilions can be hired for functions. You can walk your dog on a leash.

Access 45 km north-west of Sydney CBD,  
10 km north of Blacktown on Worcester  
Road off Windsor Road.

Windsor, 4572 3100

## 30 Royal National Park

15,080 ha



**Highlights** This historic national park was the first in Australia (and second in the world, after Yellowstone in the USA) and is easily accessible from Sydney. Walk the coast for magnificent views or explore a variety of habitats, including heath, rainforest, open wetlands and estuaries.

**Activities** Over 100 km of walking tracks give access to the park. The 26 km Coast Track has magnificent clifftop views, or take the Forest Island loop walk through cool, rainforested valleys. Wattamolla, Garie and Burning Palms are among the most beautiful beaches in Australia. Enjoy a picnic in one of many peaceful, shady areas or hire a rowboat at historic Audley and take a paddle up Kangaroo Creek.

There are kiosks at Garie, Wattamolla and Audley. The kiosk and picnic pavilion at Audley and the visitor centre are wheelchair accessible, as are the toilets nearby. The Bungoona Track close to the visitor centre is a 500-metre concrete path with a wheelchair-accessible lookout. *Discovery* walks, talks and tours are available year round. Join an Aboriginal *Discovery* Ranger for an educational insight into the land — phone 9542 0649 for *Discovery* information and bookings.

Car-based and caravan camping (no power) with basic facilities is available at Bonnie Vale (fees apply, bookings essential). Backpack camping is permitted at limited sites (fees apply, permits and bookings essential). Children under 18 years must be accompanied by an adult. Phone the Visitor Centre at Audley for all bookings and permits.

Access 32 km south of Sydney via Princes Highway. \$10 per day vehicle entry fee. Take the Illawarra train line, stopping at Loftus, Engadine, Heathcote, Waterfall or Otford. Access the north-eastern area of the park via the Cronulla line to Cronulla and then ferry to Bundeena (phone 9523 2990 for timetable).

Audley, 9542 0648

## Royal National Park Visitor Centre

Audley  
Ph: 9542 0648



Call in for maps, brochures and information about the special things to see and do in Australia's first national park. Information on Heathcote National Park and Garawarra State Conservation Area is also available. The shop has an excellent range of books, gifts and souvenirs. Camping bookings are made and permits issued here. Open 8.30 to 4.30 seven days a week (closed Christmas Day).

**31 Scheyville National Park** 920 ha

**National Park** 920 ha



**Highlights** Evidence of the area's rich history of European occupation can still be seen in the relics of agriculture, military training and immigration. The surrounding Cumberland Plain woodland ecosystems once covered much of what is now western Sydney, but are now threatened, mainly by urban expansion.

Any questions call 1 300 361 967



# Sydney & Surrounds



Heritage Foreshore, Sydney Harbour National Park

**Activities** Walk the history trail and imagine what life was like in the years of the Casual Labour Farm, Agricultural Training Farm, migrant hostel or during military occupation. The walking track right around Longneck Lagoon provides excellent birdwatching opportunities. Picnic facilities and information are available at the Scheyville office. Phone 9247 5033 for a program of walks and tours in the area. Camping is not permitted in the park but you can camp in nearby Cattai National Park.

**Access** 45 km north-west of Sydney, 6 km east of Windsor on Windsor Road via Boundary Road and Old Pitt Town Road (from Parramatta), or on Pitt Town Road and Saunders Road (from Windsor).

Windsor, 4572 3100

## 32 Sydney Harbour National Park 393 ha



**Highlights** Sections of park scattered around Sydney Harbour offer views of the majestic harbour entrance, natural bushland, secluded sandy beaches, harbour islands and rugged sandstone cliffs — all with the contrast of cosmopolitan Sydney in the background.

**Activities** Swim and picnic at Nielsen Park (shark-netted during summer) and walk the Hermitage Foreshore Track, or visit South Head for astonishing views. Take a tour of the harbour islands, such as historic Fort Denison and Goat Island, or visit the

Quarantine Station (bookings essential). You can also enjoy a picnic on Shark, Clark and Rodd islands (landing fees apply). All island visits and all tours must be booked and paid for in advance.

**Access** The park is in several sections surrounding Sydney Harbour, most of which are accessible by car and public transport. For bookings, directions and further details phone or visit the Sydney Harbour National Park Information Centre. \$3 vehicle entry fee at North Head and Bradleys Head only.

Information Centre, 9247 5033

### Sydney Harbour National Park Information Centre

Cadmans Cottage  
110 George Street  
The Rocks, Sydney  
Ph: 9247 5033



The Cadmans Cottage centre (see page 33) provides information and bookings on tours and access to Sydney Harbour islands and foreshores, including Goat Island, Fort Denison, the Quarantine Station, Middle Head and Bradleys Head, as well as Bare Island Fort and Lapérouse Museum and Visitor Centre in the northern section of Botany Bay National Park. The centre also provides information on facilities available in the parks and reserves to the west of the city centre. Open 9 am to 5 pm Monday to Friday, and 9.30 am to 4.30 pm Saturday & Sunday. Closed Christmas day and Good Friday.

## Exploring history in our parks

Many of the parks and reserves in NSW protect sites of our post-colonial history, as well as Aboriginal cultural landscapes and native plants and animals. In the Hunter and Mid North Coast area, for example, you can visit the ruins of Trial Bay Gaol at Arakoon, take a tour of Roto House in Macquarie Nature Reserve, or take the scenic walk to tiny Kyllies Hut (once the home of author Kylie Tennant) in Crowdy Bay National Park.

In the Sydney region you can take a 'ghost tour' of the Quarantine Station in Sydney Harbour National Park, explore Bare Island Fort in Botany Bay National Park (built in 1885 to protect Sydney from attack), or go on a guided walk around the shoreline's many monuments of European colonisation. Call the Lapérouse Museum and Visitor Centre (9247 5033) for details. If you want to taste the trials of convict life, Dharug National Park protects 16 km of the Old Great North Road, built by convicts between 1826 and 1836. See quarry sites and grand 12-metre-high buttress walls constructed from sandstone blocks weighing up to 600 kg. Elsewhere around Sydney, have a picnic in the grounds of Rouse Hill House (managed by the Historic Houses Trust of

NSW, phone 9627 6777 for visiting hours) or take a day trip to Hartley Historic Site, a 19th-century village on the western edge of the Blue Mountains.

South of Sydney, take a tour of the historic homestead at Throsby Park, or stay in the heart of the snow gum woodlands at Currango Homestead in Kosciuszko National Park. On the coast, Davidson Whaling Station and Boyds Tower in Ben Boyd National Park stand as reminders of the state's former whaling industry.

Further west, explore our goldmining history at the 1860s goldrush town, Hill End, or our wool industry at Willandra's old homestead and shearing sheds, Kinchega's fascinating woolshed, and Mungo's woolshed and shearers' quarters (accommodation available).

There's also a chain of Victorian-era lighthouses along the coast, some of which offer accommodation (see page 43 for details).

For more information on Aboriginal heritage in our parks, see page 10.



## 33 Thirlmere Lakes National Park 630 ha



**Highlights** Part of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area, the five reed-fringed freshwater lakes, abundant with waterbirds and surrounded by quiet patches of forest, are among the last undisturbed lake systems near Sydney and have enormous scientific value.

**Activities** Only low-impact activities, such as walking, swimming, canoeing and picnicking, are encouraged. Camping is not permitted anywhere in the park and powerboats are prohibited on the lakes.

**Access** 95 km south-west of Sydney, 35 km south-west of Camden off Remembrance Drive (unsealed). Open only during daylight hours. \$6 vehicle entry fee.

Picton, 4677 0859

## 34 Wallumatta Nature Reserve 6 ha



**Highlights:** One of the last remaining turpentine-ironbark forests on Wianamatta shale soil in Sydney — only about 1% of the original forests remain in the metropolitan area.

**Activities:** A loop walk explores the transition zone between the wetter shale forests of Sydney's north shore and the drier shale woodlands west of Parramatta. Stop and enjoy the tranquillity of this important bushland remnant and take time to appreciate some of the 35 species of birds that have been recorded in the reserve.

**Access:** Corner of Twin Road and Cressy Road in the Sydney suburb of Ryde, 10 km north-west of the CBD. Access to the loop track is off Cressy Road.

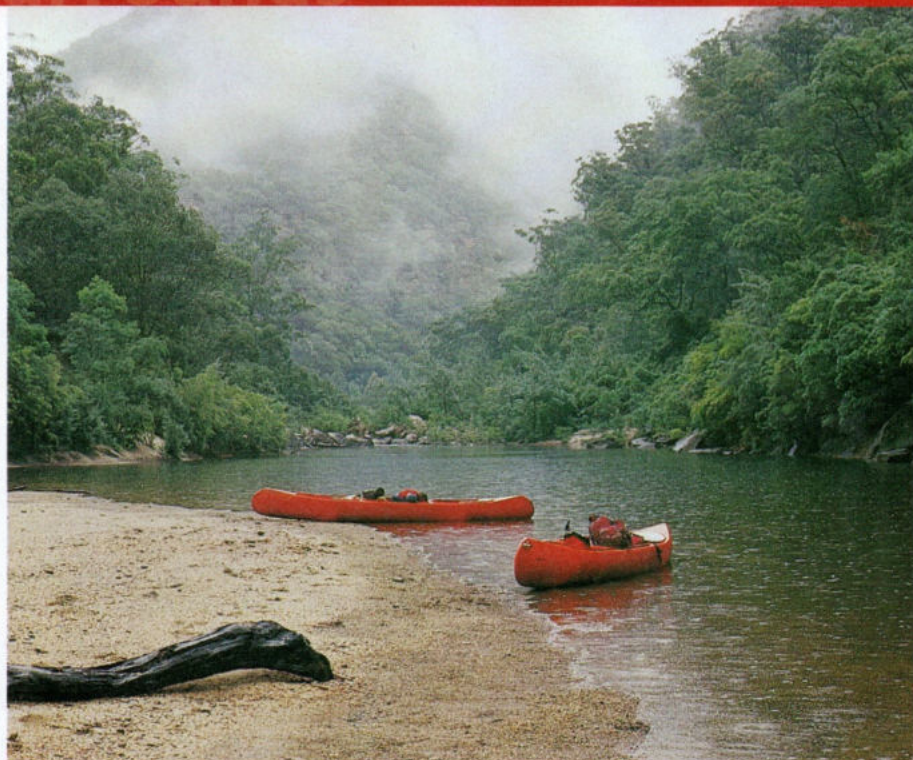
Lane Cove, 9412 1811.

## 35 Western Sydney Regional Park 582 ha



**Highlights** Horsley Park, including the Olympic Equestrian Centre — still in use after the Olympics — and Fairfield City Farm, provides open space and recreation opportunities in an urban setting.

Sydney & Surrounds



Colo River, Wollemi National Park

**Activities** There are children's playgrounds, foot and cycle paths, extended tracks for long-distance walkers and horseriding trails. Sugarloaf Ridge picnic area has many facilities and features views of the Sydney skyline and the Blue Mountains. Pimelea picnic area has facilities and walking tracks. As this is a regional park, not a national park, you can walk your dog on a leash.

**Access** 30 km west of Sydney, 10 km north-west of Liverpool. Sugarloaf Ridge can be reached from Saxony Road; Pimelea can be reached from the corner of Horsley Drive and Cowpasture Road, Horsley Park. Internal roads and walking tracks make the whole park easily accessible.

Parramatta, 9895 7420

## 36 Wollemi National Park 492,976 ha



**Highlights** The largest wilderness area in NSW and part of the recently declared Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area — a maze of canyons, cliffs and undisturbed forest.

**Activities** Descend to the Colo River on Bob Turners Track (4 km, 200 metres descent, some steep sections) and enjoy the beaches in one of the state's longest and most scenic gorges. There are historic ruins at Newnes, across the Wolgan River from the camping

area. The Glow Worm Tunnel is part of the old railway that serviced the area; access from Clarence on the Bells Line of Road. Dunns Swamp has easy walks and plenty of opportunities for canoeing. Car-based and small-caravan camping is available at Dunns Swamp (contact Mudgee office) and Newnes (contact Blackheath) on the western side of the park, and Wheeney Creek (short walk from carpark; contact Richmond) on the eastern side. Backpack camping is permitted throughout the park. Bookings and permits for camping are not required.

**Access** 100–250 km north-west of Sydney. Dunns Swamp is 20 km from Rylstone along Narrango Road; Newnes is 47 km north of Lithgow along Wolgan Road; and Bob Turners Track starts off Putty Road 15 km north-west of Colo. All roads are unsealed.

North-east: Bulga, 6574 5275

South-east: Richmond, 4588 5247

South-west: Blackheath, 4787 8877

West: Mudgee, 6372 7199

## 37 Wyrabalong National Park 621 ha



**Highlights** The park's two scenic and forest-clad sections of coastline are separated by The Entrance. The southern part has high headlands, cliffs and rock platforms. The north is sandy and protects red gum forest and coastal rainforest.

Any questions call 1300 361 967



# Sydney & Surrounds

**Activities** Swim at Tuggerah Beach (north) or Bateau Bay (south). There's good birdwatching by the lake, great surfing on the coast and several walking tracks. Camping isn't permitted, but you can camp in nearby Munmorah State Conservation Area.

**Access** 105 km north-east of Sydney. The two sections of the park are 5 km north and south of The Entrance off Wilfred Barrett Drive (north) and The Entrance Road (south).

Lake Munmorah, 4358 0400

## 38 Yengo National Park 152,262 ha



**Highlights** A wild area of steep gorges and rocky ridges, part of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage area. Mt Yengo is of cultural significance to local Aboriginal communities, and historic convict transport routes run through the area.

**Activities** Take a guided or self-guided walk along the Old Great North Road from Wisemans Ferry in the park's south-east. Or try turning your 4WD off Putty Road near Howes Valley to travel the Old Settlers Road to Paynes Crossing, or explore the Yango track and Boree track from Laguna. There are great views at Finchley Lookout. Discovery walks, talks and tours are available throughout the year. Picnicking and car-based camping are available at Finchley (pit toilets, dam water) and Mogo Creek (pit toilets, tank water, camping fees apply). There are many opportunities for backpack camping throughout the park.



Looking north-east from Finchley Trig in Yengo National Park

**Access** 80–180 km north-west of Sydney. Finchley camping area is 12 km west of Laguna along the Finchley Track (unsealed). Mogo Creek camping area is 25 km north-west of St Albans on the St Albans–Bucketty road (unsealed).

North: Bulga, 6574 5275

East: Gosford, 4320 4280

South-west: Blackheath, 4787 8877, or Richmond, 4588 5247

### Wollemi pine

Only discovered in 1994, this remarkable 'living fossil' has survived since the age of the dinosaurs. A small grove of the 35-metre-high trees was found by an NPWS ranger in a sheltered rainforest gully in Wollemi National Park, north-west of Sydney. Both female (top) and male cones are shown here.



## Responsible mountain biking

From easy, flat cruises to exciting downhill plunges, you'll find a wealth of cycling experiences in national parks. Mountain biking is prohibited on all walking tracks, both for the protection of the often fragile paths and for the safety of walkers (you may be fined as well). However, many parks offer extensive networks of roads, tracks and fire trails suitable for cycling. Check the park entries on [www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au](http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au) for details, or call 1300 361 967. If you're cycling in NSW park or reserves, keep the following points in mind:

- Avoid skidding — it can remove the surface layer of a track, causing erosion.
- Keep your bike clean — it'll last longer, and is less likely to carry weeds and plant diseases into native bushland.
- Avoid riding in the wet — your tyres will carve tracks in the mud that channel water, causing erosion.
- If there are puddles on the trail, please splish your way through! If you go around puddles, it only widens the trail. Don't take short cuts or form new trails: this destroys native vegetation.
- Leave everything as you find it. Don't disturb historic places, Aboriginal sites, plants, animals or bush rock.
- Take all your rubbish home.
- Wear a helmet and always be in control of your bike. If you're out of control, you're endangering yourself and other park users.
- Respect other people, such as walkers, joggers and horse riders — they have just as much right to be on the park's trails as you. Try to cycle in small, manageable groups to prevent too much disturbance to others.
- As you approach walkers, give them plenty of warning by calling out or ringing your bell. Slow right down, and only pass when it's safe.
- When you meet horse riders, slow down and tell them you're approaching (don't use your bell or horn). Move over and allow them to pass. A horse can be frightened by a bicycle, endangering both its rider and you — so be careful.
- If you come across other cyclists who are not respecting the park or are disturbing others, politely explain that cycling can only continue to be acceptable in bushland areas if riders follow this code.



# South Coast & Highlands

*Cutting in above Wollongong, the cool plateaus and great sandstone cliffs of the escarpment stretch south through the Illawarra toward the distant mountains. Wilderness areas survive among its rugged heights, plunging waterfalls carve narrow valleys into its face, while the coast below is a string of secluded beaches, estuaries and twisting lakes. Further south and west the uplands climb to the great Kosciuszko, promising winter snow fields and alpine walks in summer. On the south-west slopes, newly protected areas offer breathtaking views out over the Murray River and beyond. Visit [www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/south](http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/south)*



track, the Light to Light Walk, links Boyds Tower and the lightstation — a brochure is available from the NPWS Office in Merimbula. There's car-based camping (not for caravans) at Saltwater Creek or Bittangabee Bay; fees apply and bookings are essential for Christmas and Easter holidays (write to PO Box 656, Merimbula 2548, or fax 6495 5055).

**Access** In two sections to the north and south of Eden. North section is 8 km north of Eden off Princes Highway. South section is 33 km south of Eden on Green Cape Road (unsealed) off Edrom Road. Green Cape accommodation is designed for wheelchair access. \$6 per day vehicle entry fee.

Merimbula, 6495 5000

## 3 Biamanga National Park

13,749 ha



**Highlights** Mumbulla Mountain, at the upper reaches of the Murrumbidgee River, is sacred to the Yuin people and a number of sites throughout the park have spiritual significance to local Aboriginal groups. The park also conserves an important area of substantially unmodified coastal foothill environments.

**Activities** Mumbulla Creek Falls has picnic facilities, barbecues, a boardwalk and an information display.

**Access** 20 km north of Bega off the Princes Highway. Unsealed roads.

Narooma, 4476 2888

## 1 Barren Grounds Nature Reserve 2024 ha



**Highlights** The heathland plateau is a mass of wildflowers in spring and is perfect for birdwatching. A range of walks offer magnificent views of the Illawarra coastline and surrounding countryside.

**Activities** There are several walking tracks from 1.5 km up to 9 km. The field studies centre and bird observatory, run by Birds Australia, offers natural history courses.

**Access** 110 km south-west of Sydney, 20 km west of Kiama, and 12 km east of Robertson off the Jamberoo Mountain Road.

Fitzroy Falls, 4887 7270

South Coast & Highlands

## 2 Ben Boyd National Park 10,260 ha



**Highlights** Rocky stretches of coastline with vivid rock formations, heaths and banksia forest flank Twofold Bay. Don't miss Boyds Tower, built for whale-spotting by Ben Boyd. Green Cape Lightstation and the Pinnacles — white sand cliffs topped by red gravel — are well worth a look, and unique four star accommodation is available in the Assistant Lighthouse Keepers' cottages.

**Activities** The 1 km walk to Boyds Tower is wheelchair-accessible. Day tours and accommodation are available at the lighthouse year round (phone Merimbula for bookings and information). A new 30 km

## Kurrajong

The seed pods of the kurrajong, or flame tree, are a good source of fat and protein and can be roasted or used to make flour. But beware, the pods are lined with sharp hairs that can irritate your skin or even cause blindness if you accidentally rub one in your eye. Traditionally, fire was used to burn away the hairs and cook the seeds — which also helped to counteract the slightly toxic substance found in the seeds' yellow coating.



Any questions call 1300 361 967



## 4 Bimberamala National Park 4396 ha

**Highlights** Much of the catchment area of the pristine Bimberamala River has recently been listed as a National Park, and its untouched state makes it perfect for independent bushwalkers.

**Activities** Walkers and anglers will find exploring the park's forests and waterways a rewarding experience. Opportunities for backpack camping are limited due to the rugged terrain.

**Access** 30 km west of Batemans Bay and 10 km north of Kings Highway.

Nowra, 4423 2170

## Booderee National Park

Booderee, which includes well-known spots such as Green Patch and Caves Beach, is jointly managed by Wreck Bay Aboriginal community and Environment Australia, not the NPWS. There's a \$10 vehicle entry fee (or \$30 annual fee), even if you have an NPWS annual pass. For details of the park contact the visitor centre on 4443 0977. The park lies next to NSW Jervis Bay National Park (see page 47), which is managed by the NPWS.

## 5 Bournda National Park 2563 ha



**Highlights** A place of great beauty and conservation significance, with saltwater and freshwater lakes, a lagoon, a creek and beaches.

**Activities** There are ample opportunities for swimming, fishing, canoeing and walking. There's a viewing platform at North Tura and good picnicking at Bournda Lagoon. A newly completed viewing platform and beach access at Turingal Head, north of Wallagoot Lake, is worth a visit to view the dramatic rock formations around the river mouth. Car-based and caravan camping (not powered) is available at Hobart Beach. Fees apply and bookings are essential for holiday periods (write to PO Box 656, Merimbula 2548, or fax 6495 5055).

**Access** 20 km south-east of Bega on Sapphire Coast Drive. \$6 per day vehicle entry fee.

Merimbula, 6495 5000

[www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au](http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au)

A. Brown



Tura Beach, Bournda National Park

## 6 Brindabella National Park 18,472 ha

**Highlights** Stringybark, scribbly gum, box and peppermint forest, and subalpine snow gum and mountain gum forests protect threatened species, such as the powerful owl and corroboree frog, in the most northern of the Australian Alps national parks.

**Activities** Bushwalking and birdwatching are popular; responsible 4WD and motorcycle users can access the system of trails.

**Access** 30 km west of Canberra off Brindabella Road (4WD only).

Queanbeyan, 6299 2929

## 7 Budawang National Park 23,787 ha

**Highlights** A rugged and remote wilderness area suitable for hardy bushwalkers. The view from the summit of Mt Budawang is superb, but is accessible only by a lengthy walk.

**Activities** There are opportunities for remote-area bushwalking and backpack camping. Walkers will need to be equipped for difficult and isolated conditions and carry sufficient water and survival gear. Most of the park is a declared wilderness area, so no vehicles or horses are permitted and cycling is only permitted on the Boundary and Dingo trails.

**Access** 50 km west of Ulladulla. There's no vehicle access but walking access is possible from the Western Distributor road off Yabbaro Road (both unsealed) or Kings Highway.

Fitzroy Falls, 4887 7270

## Historic lighthouses

The NPWS manages nine historic lighthouses dotted along the NSW coastline, romantic icons from a more hazardous era of ocean navigation. Stretching from Green Cape in the far south to Cape Byron near the Queensland border, colonial authorities intended them to function together as a chain of coastal highway lights, protecting ships from dangerous shoals, headlands, bars and reefs.

Sitting in lonely, isolated locations, the lighthouses are often surrounded by spectacular national parks — Smoky Cape Lighthouse overlooks Hat Head National Park, for example, and Montague Island Lighthouse stands in the middle of the island's nature reserve.

Near Sydney, there are lighthouses at Cape Baily, in Botany Bay National Park; on Inner South Head, in Sydney Harbour National Park; and on Barrenjoey Head, in Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park.

Several of the lighthouses are still functioning, many offer tours and some, such as Green Cape Lighthouse in Ben Boyd National Park, offer accommodation. For more details contact the National Parks Centre on 1300 361 967 or visit the website at [www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au](http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au).





Mount Coree in Brindabella National Park

## 8 Budderoo National Park

7120 ha



**Highlights** Excellent plateau walking tracks with fabulous views across sandstone country, heathlands and towards the Illawarra coast and Minnamurra Rainforest.

**Activities** Walking tracks, including one that's wheelchair accessible, have been constructed to three lookout platforms that provide superb views of Carrington Falls in the plateau section of the park. The popular Minnamurra Rainforest Centre lies below the sandstone plateau. A wheelchair-accessible boardwalk leads from the rainforest centre through subtropical and temperate rainforest areas and a separate paved walk leading to Minnamurra Falls. Backpack camping more than 1 km from roads is permitted on the Budderoo Plateau. There is a small camping ground at Carrington Falls.

**Access** 120 km south-west of Sydney. Entry to the park is off Jamberoo Pass Road. For Carrington Falls, turn off Jamberoo Pass Road up from Minnamurra Rainforest, 8 km east of Robertson. The Minnamurra Rainforest Centre is 15 km west of Kiama on Tourist Drive 9 — drive through the historic village of Jamberoo and follow the rainforest signs. Minnamurra Rainforest can also be accessed via Robertson and Carrington Falls. \$10 per day vehicle entry fee at Minnamurra only.

Minnamurra, 4236 0469

Fitzroy Falls, 4887 7270

South Coast & Highlands

## Minnamurra Rainforest Centre

Budderoo National Park  
Minnamurra Falls Road, Jamberoo  
Ph: 4236 0469



15 km west of Kiama on Tourist Drive 9, the Rainforest Centre provides an elevated boardwalk through the rainforest and a paved track to the Upper Falls — keep an eye out for superb lyrebirds in the undergrowth. The Visitor Centre provides information about the area and surrounding national parks, and a shop. The Lyrebird Cafe offers light meals and refreshments, and there are picnic and barbecue facilities available. Open 7 days a week, 9 am to 5 pm (closed Christmas Day). \$10 vehicle entry fee. The visitor centre, cafe and commencement of the rainforest walk (approx 1 hour) close at 4 pm — you'll need to start the Upper Falls walk (approx 2 hours) before 3 pm.

## 9 Bungonia State Conservation Area

3977 ha



**Highlights** The network of tracks and lookouts offer fabulous river and canyon views and access to one of Australia's prime caving spots.

J. Briggs/NPWS

**Activities** There are plenty of opportunities for various types of adventure recreation, such as canoeing, canyoning and caving (BASE jumping prohibited). There's a well-equipped car-based camping area, including a camp kitchen (fees apply, bookings required).

**Access** 175 km south-west of Sydney, 35 km east of Goulburn and 25 km south of Marulan via Bungonia along Lookdown Road. \$6 per day vehicle entry fee.

Info line, 4844 4341

Bungonia, 4844 4277

## 10 Cecil Hoskins Nature Reserve 47 ha



**Highlights** The wetlands support over 80 species of waterfowl, and sometimes in the late evening or early morning you may see a platypus.

**Activities** The 1 km walk on the edge of the wetland has seats for watching the birds or sitting and experiencing the peace and tranquillity. The picnic area has tables and barbecues. Camping is not permitted.

**Access** 115 km south-west of Sydney, 2 km north of Moss Vale on the Bowral-Moss Vale road.

Fitzroy Falls, 4887 7270

## 11 Clyde River National Park 1278 ha



**Highlights** Approximately 9 km of river frontage on the peaceful Clyde River supports a range of habitats, including mangrove communities.

**Activities** Holmes Lookout offers glimpses of the river and Batemans Bay. The Clyde River provides great fishing opportunities and car-based (4WD) and boat-based camping (no facilities).

**Access** 4 km west of Batemans Bay just south of Nelligen; enter via unsealed roads off Kings Highway or by boat up the Clyde River.

Nowra, 4423 2170

## 12 Comerong Island Nature Reserve 660 ha



**Highlights** The reserve protects the largest remaining coastal rainforest on the south coast, outstanding wetlands and is home to a variety of protected wading birds.

Any questions call 1300 361 967



# South Coast & Highlands

**Activities** Excellent for recreational fishing, swimming, surfing and birdwatching. There's a small grassed picnic area near the entrance to the reserve. Camping is not permitted.

**Access** 165 km south of Sydney, 10 km east of Nowra via car ferry off Comerong Island Road. Unsealed roads; 2WD in dry weather only.

Nowra, 4423 2170

## 13 Conjola & Cudmirrah National Parks 11,063 ha



**Highlights** These adjacent coastal parks feature extensive forests beside beautiful lakes and estuaries and large areas of woodland and heath that become a mass of wildflowers in spring.

**Activities** Monument Beach and Fishermans Rock have picnic areas and walking tracks. Camping is not permitted but there's a range of camping and accommodation in the surrounding villages and towns.

**Access** Enter via Goonawarra Drive from Cudmirrah, Cedar Road on the Bendalong Road, or Fishermans Rock from Berrara — all unsealed roads.

Nowra, 4423 2170

## 14 Cullendulla Creek Nature Reserve 126 ha



**Highlights** Explore mangroves and the lower reaches of Cullendulla Creek with views across Batemans Bay and Tollgate Islands. Signs offering an insight into the local area have been installed along the raised Mangrove Walk.

**Activities** Enjoy walking, swimming, fishing and birdwatching along the creek, or take the wheelchair accessible boardwalk from the carpark down to Cullendulla Beach.

**Access** Situated in the northern shoreline of Batemans Bay; enter off Surfside Road.

Nowra, 4423 2170

## 15 Davidson Whaling Station Historic Site

27 ha



**Highlights** In these days of whale-watching, the longest-running shore-based whaling station in Australia, operating from the 1860s to the 1920s, is a reminder of a very different era.

**Activities** A signposted walk to the Kiah Inlet highlights the ruins of the whale processing area, and passes a charming rustic cottage in a historic garden setting. Wheelchair access is to the cottage only (call Merimbula to gain vehicle access and avoid the steep path).

**Access** 35 km south-east of Eden along Edrom Road (last 4 km unsealed).

Merimbula, 6495 5000

## 16 Deua National Park

117,557 ha



**Highlights** A rugged, scenic area of mountain ranges, bisected plateaus and both wild and gentle rivers, much of which is listed as wilderness. Deua's rivers are popular for canoeing trips and its limestone belt attracts caving enthusiasts.

**Activities** Experienced paddlers can enjoy the upper Shoalhaven River and cavers can explore the limestone caves (caving permits apply to some sites). See the magnificent Big Hole (96 metres deep) while camping at Berlang, or follow the Araluen Road and camp at Deua River, Bakers Flat or Dry Creek (car-based and caravan camping; minimal facilities; fees apply). A secluded camp area is also available at Bendethera (4WD only).



View from the boardwalk, Minnamurra Rainforest Centre

**Access** 100 km south-east of Canberra. Deua River and Bakers Flat camping areas are both on Araluen Road (unsealed but 2WD). Dry Creek camping area is nearby on Dry Creek Fire Trail (4WD access only). Berlang

## Horseriding in national parks

In many national parks, horses can be ridden on the majority of public roads that are open to motor vehicles. Unlike walking tracks, these roads can generally cope with the impact of horses. However, in designated wilderness areas and water catchments, and in sensitive environments where the soil is prone to erosion or where plant communities are very fragile, horseriding is not permitted. Check with local NPWS offices (see back cover) for details of the trails in your area.

Around Sydney, you can ride your horse on popular designated trails in protected areas like Ku-ring-gai Chase and Garigal

national parks. Rouse Hill Regional Park offers a specialised horseriding circuit, and Western Sydney Regional Park, where the Olympic equestrian events were held, continues to offer extensive facilities.

But for a taste of the drover's life, head south. In parts of Kosciuszko National Park you can tour the spectacular high country over several days following the network of designated horse trails, with camping areas where horses may be kept. Before you set out, get a copy of the *Australian Alps Horse Riding Code*, available from NPWS visitor centres in the Snowy region.





M. Cifer

Meeting the protected fauna of Jervis Bay Marine Park

camping area is on Krawarree Road, between Nimmitabel and Braidwood. Bendethera camping area is accessible via Dampier Mountain Fire Trail (4WD only) off Snowball Road, or Bendethera Fire Trail (4WD only) via Western Boundary Road and Sugarloaf Road off the Princes Highway.

Narooma, 4476 2888

## Discovery Centre, Merimbula

Cnr Sapphire Coast Drive & Merimbula Drive, Merimbula  
Ph: 6495 5000



This wheelchair-accessible centre provides visitors with information on walking tracks, camping areas and unique flora and fauna of the south east forests from the Victorian border through to Batemans Bay. The Australian Geographic Adventure Station features an interactive CD-ROM and displays. Open 9.00 am to 4.00 pm weekdays and some weekends during peak holiday periods.

## 17 Eurobodalla National Park 2627 ha



**Highlights** Ocean beaches, spotted gum forests, wetlands and estuaries offer a variety of scenery and an important habitat area for waterbirds and threatened native animals

such as the white-footed dunnart. The Eurobodalla area also has significant Aboriginal and European cultural sites.

**Activities** Enjoy camping, bushwalking, fishing, swimming, birdwatching, boating and other water activities. Car-based and caravan camping is available at Congo camping area (fees apply) and there are plenty of picnic spots.

**Access** Stretched along the coast from Moruya Head in the north to Tilba Lake in the south. Various access points off the Princes Highway.

Narooma, 4476 2888

## 18 Gulaga National Park

4673 ha



**Highlights** Gulaga (Mt Dromedary) and the surrounding landscape have great spiritual significance to local Aboriginal people, particularly Aboriginal women. The park also incorporates the former Wallaga Lake National Park and is scheduled to be handed back to the Aboriginal owners for joint management as a national park.

**Activities** Walk up the old logging road to the peak and enjoy views out over the coastal lakes. Tours of the area's cultural sites are available through Umbarra Aboriginal Cultural Tours at Wallaga Lake (phone 4473 7323).

**Access** 10 km north of Bermagui along the Wallaga Lake Road. You can enter the park on foot from the Princes Highway but the lake areas are best accessed by boat. Hire boats from Regatta Point or Beauty Point.

Narooma, 4476 2888

## 19 Illawarra Escarpment State Conservation Area

1504 ha



**Highlights** Vantage points along the Illawarra Escarpment at Bulli, Mt Keira and Mt Kembla offer magnificent coastal views a short drive from Wollongong.

**Activities** Tracks through a variety of forests, including rainforest, cater for a wide range of walkers. Join a Discovery Ranger on an educational stroll (bookings essential, phone 9542 0649). Many of the lookouts have wheelchair access.

**Access** 65 km south of Sydney via the Princes Highway or F6 Freeway to Bulli, Mt Ousley Road to Mt Keira Road, or Harry Graham Drive and Cordeaux Road to Mt Kembla.

Wollongong, 4225 1455

## 20 Jervis Bay Marine Park

21,450 ha



**Highlights** The bay offers beaches, rocky platforms and reefs, extensive seagrass beds, estuaries, deep-water cliffs with caves and dolphins are a regular sight in the crystal-clear waters.

**Activities** Scuba diving, swimming, surfing, boating and fishing are all popular. Picnic facilities and walking tracks are available in the surrounding NSW Jervis Bay National Park (see page 47).

**Access** 170 km south of Sydney, 25 km south-east of Nowra, with many access routes off the Princes Highway.

Huskisson, 4441 7752

### Fur seal

Male fur seals grow up to around 2.25 m long and can weigh as much as 360 kg — three or four times heavier than the females. The strongest males mark out breeding territory on barren islands and rocky platforms from Tasmania to southern NSW, using bellows, dramatic postures and occasionally their might to keep weaker rivals at bay. Though often tightly packed together, females and pups live a quieter life — they don't 'belong' to any particular male and are free to wander in and out of territories as they please.



Any questions call 1300 361 967



# South Coast & Highlands



Charlotte Pass, Kosciuszko National Park

## 21 NSW Jervis Bay National Park 4211 ha



**Highlights** Sections of the park fringe Jervis Bay, St Georges Basin and ocean beaches. The area is rich in Aboriginal heritage, includes important wetlands and preserves a flourishing diversity of plants and animals. It lies next to the Commonwealth-managed Jervis Bay National Park, now called Booderee National Park — see page 43.

**Activities** The forest, bays and beaches are great for swimming, bushwalking, bird-watching or just enjoying the tranquillity. Greenfield Beach has visitor facilities, including electric barbecues, toilets, a shelter shed and wheelchair access to the beach. From Greenfield Beach you can follow information signs on the White Sands Walk along the coast to Hyams Beach and return via the Scribbly Gum Track. Hammerhead Point near Currarong and Red Point near Callala Bay on the northern side of the bay have picnic areas with toilets. Camping is not

permitted in the park but the nearby villages and Booderee National Park provide a range of accommodation, including camping grounds and caravan parks.

Access 170 km south of Sydney, 25 km south of Nowra. Greenfield Beach is in Vincentia off Elizabeth Drive.

Nowra, 4423 2170

Fitzroy Falls, 4887 7270

## 22 Kosciuszko National Park 674,376 ha



**Highlights** One of the world's great national parks, home to the highest mountains in Australia, the NSW ski fields and the famous Snowy River. There are endless opportunities for summer walks and winter snow sports and a teeming variety of native wildlife.

**Activities** Skiing is the big attraction, but in warmer months you can admire the alpine wildflowers, visit historic homesteads on the treeless plains in the north of the park, or explore Yarrangobilly Caves and swim in the thermal pool. Alpine walks are limited to the warmer months, but lower-altitude walks are worth taking throughout the year. The Alpine Way has been fully sealed, providing a scenic route between Jindabyne and Khancoban.

Car-based camping areas with fireplaces and pit toilets are provided along major roads throughout the park, including the Alpine Way, the Khancoban-Cabramurra Road (closed in winter), the Snowy Mountains Highway and Barry Way; phone for details about caravan camping in these areas. Commercial accommodation is available at Thredbo, Perisher, Smiggin Holes, Charlotte Pass, Guthega and Sawpit Creek. For a real old-world high-country experience stay at Currango Homestead and cottages in the heart of the snow gum woodlands in the north of the park (phone 6947 7025 for bookings).

Access 450-600 km south-west of Sydney. Yarrangobilly Caves are 70 km south-east of Tumut on the Snowy Mountains Highway; the ski fields are 90-100 km west of Cooma on Kosciuszko Road and Alpine Way and at Selwyn Snowfields north-west of Cooma. During winter, motorists with 2WD vehicles must carry properly fitting snow chains on most mountain roads. A \$15 per day vehicle entry fee applies year round on the Kosciuszko Road and Alpine Way and during winter at Mt Selwyn. Vehicles and horses are not permitted in the park's wilderness areas. A \$3 fee applies at Yarrangobilly Caves.

Jindabyne, 6450 5600

Tumut, 6947 7025

Perisher, 6457 5214

Khancoban, 6076 9373

Yarrangobilly, 6454 9597

## Staying safe in alpine areas

Alpine areas present special safety issues, particularly in winter, so remember to take these precautions:

- Always travel in a group, never alone, and tell relatives or friends of your travel plans.
- Take a waterproof jacket and trousers, extra warm clothing and food and drink. Take a bivouac bag or space blanket for emergencies. You may also want to take an emergency beacon (EPIRB) — hire one from Snowy Mountains Visitor Centre.
- Always check the weather before leaving, and don't go if bad weather is approaching.
- If you're staying overnight take a good-quality sleeping bag and mountain tent — huts provide shelter but they may be full or you might not be able to reach them in bad weather.
- If you're lost or injured, consider staying where you are; you'll

be harder to find on the move and will use a lot of energy. It's best to find a sheltered spot, leave something visible for searchers, get as dry as possible, and wait.

- If you're above the tree line don't drop down to tree level for shelter; it's almost impossible to be seen by helicopters if you do.
- If someone gets hypothermia (lowered body temperature), stop and warm them by providing shelter, warm dry clothes, a sleeping bag or shared body warmth; don't try to find a hut and don't give the person alcohol (it makes them lose more heat). Note that signs of hypothermia are often mistaken for fatigue.

Remember that alpine areas also require caution in the summer months, as the weather can change quickly.

For more safety tips see pages 8, 25, 32 and 59.



## Kosciuszko Visitor Centres

The four visitor centres in the Kosciuszko region provide local information, day and annual passes, NPWS products, books, maps, souvenirs, giftware and clothing.

## Snowy Region Visitor Centre

Kosciuszko Road, Jindabyne  
Ph: 6450 5600  
Email: [srvs@npws.nsw.gov.au](mailto:srvs@npws.nsw.gov.au)



Facilities include Wilfreds Cafe, the National Parks shop and a cinema where you can watch a free screening of the 15 minute film *Kosciuszko reflections*. Extensive displays and touchscreens provide information on the area. Wheelchair access is provided. Open 7 days a week, 8 am to 5.30 pm in winter and 8.30 am to 5 pm in summer (closed Christmas Day).

## Khancoban Information Centre

Scott Street, Khancoban  
Ph: 6076 9373



The south-west gateway to Kosciuszko, based in the town of Khancoban (turn off the Alpine Way at the service station). There are free displays and audio-visual presentations and wheelchair access is provided. Open 7 days a week, 8.30 am to noon and 1 pm to 4 pm. Extended hours in peak times of the year (closed Christmas Day).

## Yarrangobilly Caves Visitor Centre

Snowy Mountains Highway  
Yarrangobilly Caves  
Ph: 6454 9597



At the north end of the park, providing tickets for guided and self-guided cave tours and access to a natural thermal bathing pool, barbecue facilities, picnic areas and a number of short walks. \$3 vehicle entry fee. Open 7 days a week, 9 am to 5 pm. Extended hours at peak times of the year (closed Christmas Day).

## Tumut Region Visitor Centre

The Old Butter Factory  
5 Adelong Road, Tumut  
Ph: 6947 7025



In the Old Butter Factory at the major intersection of the Snowy Mountains Highway and the Gundagai Road at the northern tip of the park. Wheelchair access is provided. Open 7 days a week, 9 am to 5 pm (closed Christmas Day).

## 23 Macquarie Pass National Park 1064 ha



**Highlights** Some of Australia's most southern subtropical rainforests grow on the rugged sandstone escarpment.

**Activities** A pleasant 2 km rainforest walk to the Cascades Waterfall, with signs along the way providing information about the park, starts from the carpark at the foot of the pass on the northern side of the Illawarra Highway. Backpack camping is permitted more than 1 km from any public-access road.

**Access** 115 km south-east of Sydney, 9 km west of Albion Park, and 7 km east of Robertson on the Illawarra Highway.

Fitzroy Falls, 4887 7270

## 24 Meroo National Park 3641 ha



**Highlights** A wide variety of forest types, including spotted gum, adjoin the largely natural Tabourie, Burill, Termeil and Meroo coastal lakes.

**Activities** You can enjoy bushwalking, fishing, swimming and canoeing. Camping is permitted at Meroo Head in the southern section of the park, though no facilities are provided.

**Access** 5 km south of Ulladulla; enter via unsealed roads off the Princes Highway.

Nowra, 4423 2170

## 25 Mimosa Rocks National Park 5802 ha



**Highlights** Natural volcanic sculptures appear everywhere among the rugged coastal headlands, cliffs and rock stacks.

**Activities** The coastal areas are popular for surfing, fishing, snorkelling, birdwatching and taking in the sights. Car-based camping is available at Aragunnu, Picnic Point and Gillards Beach, and backpack camping at Middle Beach (fees apply, payable on site). There's caravan camping at Gillards Beach; other areas are not recommended for caravans. Picnic facilities are available at Aragunnu, Picnic Beach, Bithry Inlet and Middle Beach.

**Access** 22 km north-east of Bega off the Tathra-Bermagui road. The roads are unsealed but are suitable for 2WD in all weather.

Narooma, 4476 2888

## 26 Montague Island Nature Reserve 81 ha



**Highlights** From the end of winter to early December hundreds of seals make their home on the island. It's also a breeding ground for 15 bird species — including about 8000 pairs of penguins. You can tour the lighthouse and a collection of historic buildings.

**Activities** To visit, join a day or evening adventure tour with an NPWS guide from Narooma (tour fees apply).

**Access** 9 km offshore from Narooma. Contact the numbers below for details.

**Tour information and bookings:**  
NPWS Narooma, 4476 2888  
Narooma Visitor Centre, 4476 2881  
Narooma Charters, 4476 2240

## Bogong moth

Each year, bogong moths leave their birthplaces in southern Queensland and NSW on a migration to the peaks of the Australian Alps. They gather in mountain caves and crevices to aestivate (the summer form of hibernation) in huge numbers. Reaching densities of up to 14,000 moths per square metre, they make a traditional summer feast for local Aboriginal people.





# South Coast & Highlands

## Morton National Park

189,668 ha



J. Winter/NPWS



Fitzroy Falls, Morton National Park

**Highlights** Explore sandstone scenery on a grand scale throughout the park. To the south, George Boyd lookout, Little Forest Plateau and Pigeon House Mountain offer views of the coastline and the Budawang wilderness areas. The recently upgraded Tianjara lookout, on the Nowra-Braidwood road, provides views of Tianjara Falls. To the north, Fitzroy Falls and Belmore Falls plunge off the plateau into rainforest gullies. On the western side at Tallong there are wonderful views of the Shoalhaven Gorge from Badgerys and Longpoint lookouts.

**Activities** There are extensive opportunities for remote bushwalking from several locations, especially in the spectacular Budawangs, and easier walks at Fitzroy Falls, Belmore Falls, Little Forest and Bundanoon. You can drive to a range of breathtaking lookouts. Backpack camping more than 300 metres from roads is permitted throughout most of the park, and there's car-based camping at Gambells Rest at Bundanoon (bookings essential and fees apply). There's some provision for caravan access (three sites only, no power). Fitzroy Falls Visitor Centre is open 7 days a week.

**Access** Multiple entry points. 150–200 km south-west of Sydney, 17 km east of Moss Vale on Nowra Road. Bundanoon is 17 km south of Moss Vale. \$3 per day vehicle entry fee at Fitzroy Falls and \$6 per day at Bundanoon.

Fitzroy Falls, 4887 7270

### Fitzroy Falls Visitor Centre

Morton National Park  
Nowra Road, Fitzroy Falls  
Ph: 4887 7270



You can pick up information on all the national parks in southern NSW, Australian-made souvenirs, maps, postcards, books and local crafts. School Education programs, guided walks, videos and slide shows are conducted in the new resource room, and there are interactive displays for children. The Falls Cafe offers a range of home-cooked meals, drinks and snacks in a magnificent indoor/outdoor setting. A wheelchair-accessible boardwalk to the falls and lookouts provides views of the waterfall and sandstone escarpment. Open 7 days, 9 am to 5.30 pm (closed Christmas Day). \$3 per day vehicle entry fee.

## 28 Mount Imlay National Park 4822 ha



**Highlights** The top of Mt Imlay offers great views of the coast and forest, and the summit area supports a population of extremely rare *Eucalyptus imlayensis*. The mountain is named after the three Imlay brothers, who played an important part in opening the Eden-Monaro district to European settlement in the 1830s and 40s.

**Activities** The 3 km track (approx 4 hours return) to the summit from the end of the Burrawang Forest Road is very steep and rough and should only be attempted in daylight with good weather conditions. There's a picnic area at the western end of Burrawang Forest Road, where the mountain track starts.

**Access** 35 km south-west of Eden. Entry is from the Burrawang Forest Road off the Princes Highway 20 km south of Eden.

Merimbula, 6495 5000

## 29 Murramarang Aboriginal Area 60 ha



**Highlights** The headland complex of Aboriginal middens — mounds with shells and other cultural objects — is important to local Aboriginal communities, as well as being scientifically significant. The site, the largest on the south coast and one of only three older than 10,000 years, contains a dense concentration of stone artifacts, shells, and bones from birds, fish and animals. The variety of tool types, including rare bone tools, illustrates the long history of its occupation.

**Activities** There's a self-guided walking track, including panoramic views of the coastline, Brush Island, Durras Mountain and the hinterland ranges.

**Access** 40 km north of Batemans Bay. Enter via Murramarang Road off the Princes Highway at Termeil. Walk 800 metres along the public right-of-way to Racecourse Beach.

Nowra, 4423 2170

## 30 Murramarang National Park 11,977 ha



**Highlights** Beaches, rock platforms, spotted gum forests and rainforest gullies surround the beautiful Durras Lake.

**Activities** Explore Durras Lake and Durras Mountain on a range of walking tracks. Stay at Depot, Pebbly or Pretty beaches (caravans, cabins and camping sites available); bookings are essential and camping fees apply. Cabins at Depot Beach have been designed to accommodate wheelchairs.

### Fishing in National Parks

National parks, reserves and marine parks that include this symbol provide opportunities for recreational fishing. If you want to fish in NSW waters — both fresh and salt water — you'll need to purchase a NSW fishing licence and carry it with you at all times. For details, contact NSW Fisheries on 1300 369 365, or go to the website at [www.fisheries.nsw.gov.au](http://www.fisheries.nsw.gov.au).





Cape Howe dunes, Nadgee Nature Reserve

**Access** 10 km north of Batemans Bay along various access points off the Princes Highway. Mostly unsealed roads. \$6 per day vehicle entry fee.

Nowra, 4423 2170

## 31 Nadgee Nature Reserve 20,671 ha



**Highlights** Colourful headland cliffs line the only coastal wilderness in NSW, protecting one of the largest undeveloped catchments on the eastern seaboard.

**Activities** Unique coastal walks take in sandy beaches, rocky headlands and lush coastal heath. You'll need a permit for overnight bushwalking (bookings are essential and fees apply; write to PO Box 656, Merimbula NSW 2548, or fax 6495 5055). Greenglade

and Baycliff, on the edge of the wilderness, offer excellent picnicking, swimming and beach fishing. Both areas are accessed via Wonboyn village.

**Access** 35 km south of Eden. Entry is via Wonboyn Road (unsealed) off the Princes Highway 20 km south of Eden.

Merimbula, 6495 5000

## Narooma Wildlife Shop



Princes Highway (next to the Ice Creamery) Narooma  
Ph: 4476 2888

The shop has information on southern NSW national parks, and you can book Montague Island tours. Open Monday to Friday 9 am to 4 pm, and some weekends over Christmas and Easter holidays (closed Christmas Day).

K. Margus

## 32 Narrawallee Creek Nature Reserve 878 ha



**Highlights** Explore beautiful estuaries, coastal forests, quiet beaches and honey-combed rock platforms.

**Activities** The creek is a great place to observe birdlife, so take binoculars and a field guide. Conjola and Buckleys beaches and the Narrawallee Inlet provide excellent fishing, swimming and surfing. A network of walking tracks leads through forests and alongside mangroves. There's a picnic area near Conjola Beach.

**Access** 20 km north of Ulladulla along the Lake Conjola Road and Thorn Street.

Nowra, 4423 2170

## 33 Seven Mile Beach National Park 898 ha



**Highlights** The sweep of Seven Mile Beach is rimmed with sand dunes and low forest inhabited by birds, possums and small mammals.

**Activities** You can enjoy a range of aquatic activities, including fishing and wind-surfing. Picnic and barbecue facilities are provided in a pleasant forest setting close to the beach.

**Access** 140 km south of Sydney, 6 km south of Gerringong along Gerroa Road, towards Nowra.

Nowra, 4423 2170

## International Year of Fresh Water

2003 is the International Year of Fresh Water, a chance to focus on maintaining our fresh water supplies and managing the balance between agriculture, freshwater ecosystems and sustaining biodiversity. Freshwater habitats, also known as wetlands, are critical for conservation because they're hotspots for freshwater biodiversity, sustaining native species such as frogs, fresh water fish, waterbirds and redgums. In NSW, wetlands broadly describe a vast array of different landscapes, including swamps, springs, lakes, billabongs, estuaries, marshes, mound springs and karsts, all of which depend on rivers or groundwater to survive. Aboriginal people are also part of this landscape, and rivers and wetlands are essential for food and cultural purposes.

The cycle of floods and dry periods common in NSW is also essential for the existence of the state's patchwork of freshwater ecosystems. During flood times, the microbes, plants and animals in a wetland usually engage in a frenzy of feeding and breeding that will tide them through the dry times.

Many of the parks and reserves in NSW include wetlands whose water supply needs to be protected for the long-term benefit of the plants and animals that depend on it. The NPWS actively manages these areas, and is also involved in research, policy and management for protecting wetlands outside the reserve system. For more information on the International Year of Fresh Water, see [www.unesco.org/water/iyf](http://www.unesco.org/water/iyf).



# South Coast & Highlands

## 34 South East Forest National Park 115,372 ha

F. Krista/NPWS



**Highlights** Outstanding old-growth forests, heathlands, upland swamps, spectacular granite boulders and moist fern-filled gullies dominate the scattered sections of the park.

**Activities** Scenic drives provide access to picnic areas at Six Mile Creek, White Rock River, Wolumla Peak, Myrtle Mountain, Big Jack and Myanba Creek. At Myanba Gorge, viewing platforms look out across the Towamba Valley. The magnificent Goodenia rainforest walk, off the Pambula-Wyndham road, has a carpark and barbecue area. Viewing platforms at Pipers Lookout offer dazzling views across the Bega Valley. There are various wheelchair accessible walks and boardwalks at Six Mile Creek, Myanba Gorge, Pipers Lookout and White Rock River. Car-based camping (not for caravans) is available at Six Mile Creek and Postmans Track.

**Access** 440–550 km south of Sydney. Six Mile Creek is 12 km west of Candelo on the Tantawangalo Mountain Road (unsealed). Access to Myanba Gorge is via Coolangubra Forest Way and Kanoonah Road (both unsealed) or along the Bucky Springs Road south-east from Bombala. Pipers Lookout is 60 km west of Bega along the Snowy Mountains Highway.

Bombala, 6458 4080  
Merimbula, 6495 5000  
Narooma, 4476 2888

## 35 Tallaganda National Park 16,727 ha

**Highlights** Two sections of the Great Dividing Range south-east of Canberra support a range of forest habitats, including stringybark, scribbly gum, brown barrel and peppermint forest, as well as subalpine snow gum and mountain gum forest. The area provides habitats for threatened species such as the spotted-tailed quoll, powerful owl and yellow-bellied glider.

**Activities** The park has no facilities but there are plenty of opportunities for bushwalking, orienteering, 4WD touring and birdwatching.

**Access** 50 km south-east of Canberra, off the Captains Flat–Braidwood and Hoskinstown–Braidwood roads (4WD only).

Queanbeyan, 6299 2929

## 36 Throsby Park Historic Site 74 ha



**Highlights** The homestead's historic farm buildings, owned by the Throsby family for 150 years, are an interesting illustration of life as an early colonial landholder.

**Activities** Open only by arrangement (available for group bookings) and on periodic open days; fees apply for tours. School education programs are conducted on request.

**Access** 120 km south-west of Sydney, 1.5 km east of Moss Vale on the Illawarra Highway.

Fitzroy Falls, 4887 7270

## 37 Wadbilliga National Park 97,761 ha



**Highlights** An area of mountainous wilderness cradling one of the state's largest undisturbed river catchments.

**Activities** A 3 km walk (2 hours return) extends from Cascades carpark to Tuross

Falls. You can camp at Lake Creek or Cascades and picnic at Wadbilliga Crossing.

**Access** Entry to Lake Creek and Wadbilliga Crossing is from Cobargo via Yowrie Road and Bourkes Road. Entry to Cascades is from Cooman and Counteganey via Badja Forest Road and Tuross Falls Road.

Narooma, 4476 2888

## 38 Woomargama National Park 23,577 ha



**Highlights** A new park near the Murray River containing the largest remnant of box woodlands in the South West Slopes of NSW.

**Activities** Norths Lookout on the Tin Mine Trail provides extensive views over the Riverina. The Tin Mines picnic and camping area (suitable for backpack camping) is a stopping point on the Hume and Hovell Walking Track.

**Access** 25 km south-east of Holbrook, 40 km west of Tumbarumba. 4WD access (no 2WD) when dry, and no access at all when wet.

Tumut, 6947 7025



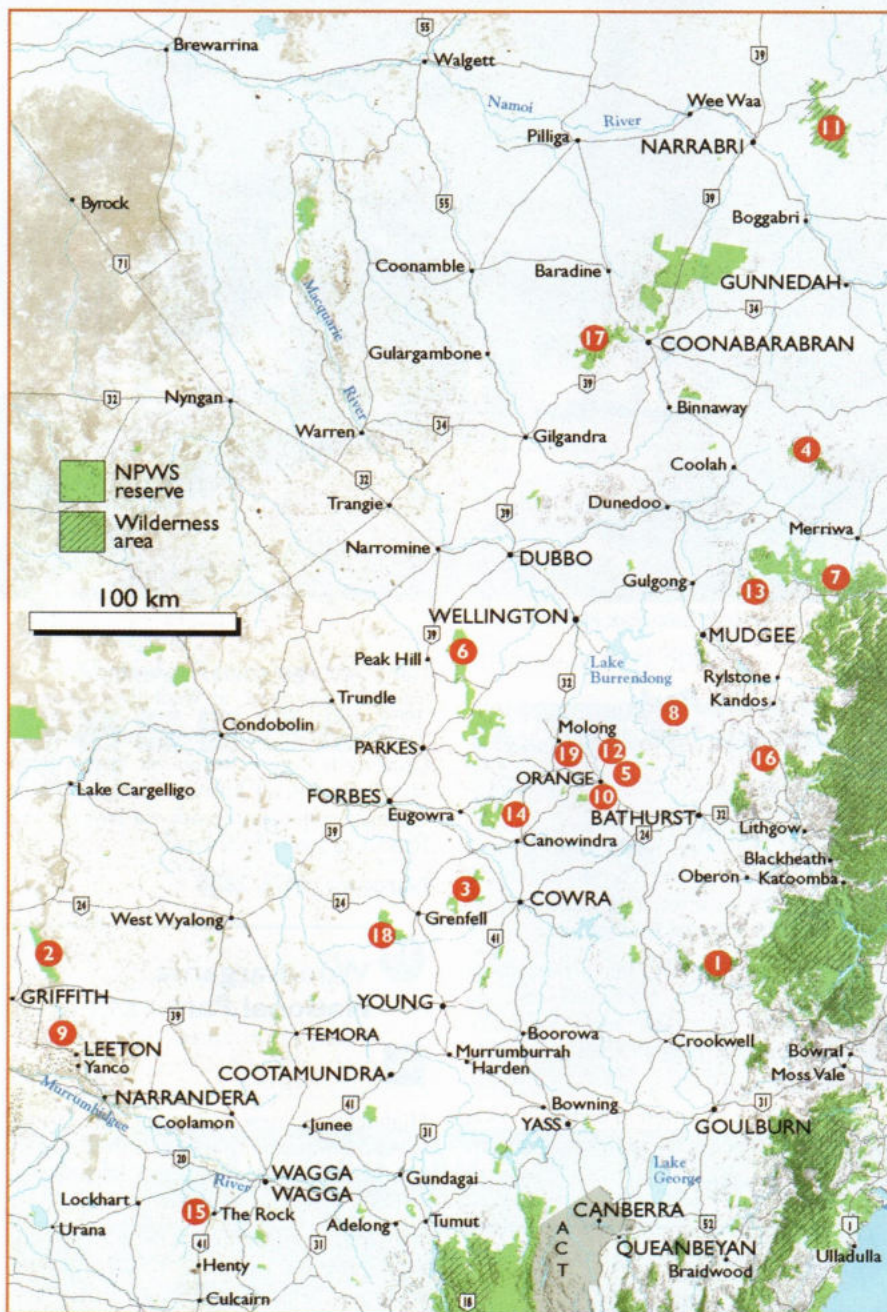
The homestead at Throsby Park Historic Site



# Central NSW



The central NSW landscape ranges from wide, sandy river banks to open plains and sandstone cliffs. Islands of bush break up the expanses of farmland and forest rolls up to the basalt spurs of the Warrumbungles. Orchids, wattles and tough ironbarks are typical of the area, which also supports waterbirds, wallabies and even platypuses. The region is rich with Aboriginal and European heritage, from Yuranighs Aboriginal Grave to the gold-mining areas around Hill End and bushranger haunts in Weddin Mountains National Park. Visit [www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/central](http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/central)



## 1 Abercrombie River National Park 19,000 ha



**Highlights** Deep waterholes beneath

Central NSW

towering casuarinas are threaded along three waterways as they run through the largest remaining patch of low, open forest in the south-west central tablelands area.

**Activities** Fish for trout in the streams or enjoy swimming and canoeing in the waterholes. Car-based camping is available

at Silent Creek, The Sink (Retreat River), The Beach (Abercrombie River) and Bummaroo Ford. Backpack camping is permitted elsewhere in the park. A 4WD is needed for all parts of the park except Bummaroo Ford, and The Sink is accessible by 2WD when roads are dry.

Access 120 km west of Sydney, 40 km south of Oberon along Goulburn Road (unsealed).

Oberon, 6336 1972

## 2 Cocoparra National Park 8358 ha



**Highlights** Wattles, orchids and blue-tinged cypress pines contrast against rich red rocks in one of the Riverina's rare forest remnants. After the winter rains the rivers swell, waterfalls leap into life and the land is bright with wildflowers.

**Activities** Walking in the park you're likely to see plenty of animals, and the track from Jacks Creek picnic area passes an impressive gorge. Car-based and caravan camping is available at Woolshed Flat.

Access 25 km north-east of Griffith from Myall Park Road, signposted at Yenda. Roads are unsealed and may be difficult in wet weather.

Griffith, 6966 8100

## 3 Conimbla National Park 7590 ha



**Highlights** Yambira mountain and its surrounding forested ranges rise nearly 500 metres above the plain, forming a 'bush island' amid the central west farm lands. Rock ledges and waterfalls have formed along some of the creek-lines, and wildflowers brighten the landscape in spring.

**Activities** Enjoy magnificent views from Ironbark walking track, or go birdwatching along the Wallaby track. Backpack camping is available.

Access 9 km west of Cowra off the Mid-western Highway.

Forbes, 6851 4429

Any questions call 1300 361 967





Shaded gully in Abercrombie River National Park

## 4 Coolah Tops National Park 10,578 ha



**Highlights** Waterfalls plunge from the plateau heights. Giant grass trees and tall, open forest with stands of huge snow gums shelter abundant wildlife, including gliders, wallabies, eagles and rare owls.

**Activities** The higher altitude offers cool walks throughout the year and amazing views northward towards the Liverpool Plains. There are plenty of opportunities for picnicking, as well as car-based, caravan (very limited) and backpack camping, with a choice of sites all at the western end of the park.

**Access** 30 km east of Coolah, along the Coolah Creek Road (unsealed sections). 4WD is necessary on some roads in the park, but camping areas at The Barracks and The Pines are 2WD accessible.

Mudgee, 6372 7199

## 5 Girralang Nature Reserve 640 ha

**Highlights** The area was part of the Ophir goldfields and was first mined in 1851 — one of the earliest gold strikes in Australia. Casuarina forests line the riverbanks, interspersed with red stringy bark, white box, red iron bark and bundy box. Swamp wallabies and eastern grey kangaroos are common and spotted-tailed quolls have been sighted in the area.

**Activities** Access to some areas of the reserve is not easy and there are no facilities. However, you can spend the day exploring mining ruins along Summerhill Creek, where you might see a platypus or eastern water dragon, or following Dry Creek firetrail. Camping is not allowed.

**Access** 24 km north-east of Orange via the Ophir Road (take Millers Crossing and turn east for the last 2 km).

Bathurst, 6332 9488

## 6 Goobang National Park 42,080 ha



**Highlights** Flora and fauna from eastern and western NSW overlap in a 55 km stretch of range and escarpment country, forming the far-western foothills of the Great Dividing Range.

**Activities** You can go picnicking, walking or backpack camping, and Caloma Trig lookout offers fantastic views of the surrounding countryside.

**Access** 30 km north-east of Parkes near Peak Hill, best accessed off the Newell Highway.

Forbes, 6851 4429

## 7 Goulburn River National Park 70,323 ha



**Highlights** The wide, open floodplain of the Goulburn River snakes its way from west to east between dramatic sandstone cliffs pocked with caves. Emus, redneck wallabies, goannas, platypuses, and a rich selection of birdlife thrive among eucalypt woodlands.

**Activities** Areas of broad, sandy riverbank, often lined with river oaks, provide easy walking access to rugged scenery. Picnic sites and car-based camping are available along the Goulburn River at Spring Gully (2WD) and Big River (4WD recommended).

**Access** 45 km north-east of Mudgee, 20 km south-west of Merriwa. Access is mainly via unsealed roads through Merriwa, Mudgee or Sandy Hollow. Camping area access is via Wollar on Mogo Road (unsealed, dry weather only).

Mudgee, 6372 7199

## Looking for koalas, kangaroos or emus?

Even when you know that koalas live in a particular area, they can be very hard to find. Road signs showing koalas tell you there are some about, but koalas are nocturnal and, although they occasionally cross the road at dusk or at night, they won't necessarily cross near the sign. You might be lucky and see some at Cudgen Nature Reserve near Tweed Heads, or Macquarie Nature Reserve at Port Macquarie on the lower North Coast (there's a koala hospital near the reserve which you can also visit). Generally if you want to take a close look at a koala the best place is a zoo.

You may have better luck searching for emus and kangaroos. Like many native species, the best times to go looking are dawn and dusk. Drive slowly and take side roads rather than main roads. Find a spot by the edge of a creek, or where a forest edges onto a grassy patch, and sit still and watch.

Kangaroos and emus are most common in the open country on the slopes and plains of western NSW. Grey kangaroos and red kangaroos are both on the larger end of the scale, and you'll find them in some of the western parks — call local NPWS offices (see back cover) for the best places to go looking. Nearer to the coast you may spot grey kangaroos on golf courses, roadsides and some beaches. There are large groups around Murrumbidgee National Park, and a popular spot closer to Sydney is Euroka Clearing, near Glenbrook, in Blue Mountains National Park. Wallabies also live in coastal regions, particularly swamp wallabies (which are large and black) and red-necked wallabies (which are grey with a reddish patch at their back of the neck).

You can see kangaroos, wallabies and a pair of emus at Kalkari Visitor Centre in Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park (call 9457 9853 for more details).





Sawn Rocks, Mount Kaputar National Park

## 8 Hill End Historic Site

134 ha



**Highlights** Hill End is a living village featuring intact goldrush streetscapes and buildings dating back to the 1860s. Preserved much as it was in its heyday, it's the perfect place to relive the early goldmining days of 19th century New South Wales. Hill End's landscape also played a significant role in Australian art, inspiring artists such as Russell Drysdale, John Olsen, Donald Friend and Brett Whitely.

**Activities** Take a self-guided tour of the town starting at the visitor centre and museum. Bald Hill Tourist Mine is a popular attraction and tours of historic Craigmoor House are available on the Australia Day and Easter long weekends. Car-based and caravan camping is available at Glendora or in the village itself (with six powered sites for caravans); camping areas have accessible toilets and showers with handrails. Camping fees apply.

**Access** 85 km north of Bathurst via Sofala (35 km unsealed), 72 km via Hargraves (30 km unsealed).

Hill End, 6337 8206

### Hill End Visitor Centre

Hill End

Ph: 6337 8206



Situated in Hill End, the centre has an extensive exhibition of artefacts from the town's gold-rush era, and is the base for a number of tours. The shop has souvenirs and gold samples. Open 7 days, 9.30 am to 12.30 pm and 1.30 pm to 4.30 pm (closed Christmas Day).

## 9 Koonadan Historic Site

22 ha



**Highlights** The Koonadan area is part of the traditional lands of the Wiradjuri nation, the largest Aboriginal group in NSW. In the late 19th century the community was forced to move to a mission, a story that's told in a display at the site's shelter.

**Activities** The NPWS has undertaken revegetation works around the area, and many bush tucker species can now be found on site. Visitors can also see the various bird species that inhabit the area.

**Access** 9 km north-west of Leeton via Cantrill Road (unsealed and may be difficult in wet weather).

Griffith, 6966 8100

## 10 Mount Canobolas State Conservation Area

1673 ha



**Highlights** The extinct volcano of Mt Canobolas rises to 1395 metres, the highest point between the Blue Mountains and Perth. Its slopes support some of the most diverse vegetation communities in the region and have many intriguing rock formations.

**Activities** There are seven walking tracks, a number of fantastic lookouts and two camping areas (Tea House and Federal Falls; both car-based camping with short walk from carpark; not suitable for caravans).

**Access** 17 km south-west of Orange via the Canobolas Way or Cargo Road.

Bathurst, 6332 9488

## 11 Mount Kaputar National Park 36,817 ha



**Highlights** Seventeen million years of erosion have sculpted the now-extinct Nandewar Volcano, forming an island of wilderness rising 1200 metres above the surrounding plains. Rocky outcrops offer breathtaking views and a diverse range of vegetation from semi-arid woodland to wet sclerophyll forest and subalpine communities cling to the mountain slopes. The region is a haven for threatened bats, birds, quolls and a unique large pink slug, which often appears after rain.

**Activities** Walking tracks range from short easy strolls to more difficult day walks or overnight treks. Picnic at Dawsons Spring in the subalpine area; take an easy walk along the Nature Trail through tall gums and snow grass or walk to the summit of Mt Kaputar. Car-based camping is available at Dawsons Spring or in the stringybark forest at Bark Hut. Camping areas have free barbecues, hot showers, toilets and fireplaces (bring your own firewood). Camping fees apply. Two cabins are available at Dawsons Spring (bookings required).

Sawn Rocks, Australia's best example of the geological formation known as organ-piping, is in the northern section of the park (not accessible from the main part of the park). It's an easy walk and has wheelchair access, free gas barbecues, picnic tables and toilets. Waa Gorge offers a more difficult half-day walk.

**Access** The main part of the park is 50 km east of Narrabri on Mt Kaputar Road (head south-east out of Narrabri on Maitland Street). The road has unsealed sections and caravans are not permitted within the park as the road is steep and narrow. Sawn Rocks is 45 minutes from Narrabri on the Bingara Road, and Waa Gorge is 90 minutes from Narrabri along the Terry Hie Hie Road (both have unsealed sections). Waa Gorge access is through several gates on private property and may be closed after rainfall.

Narrabri, 6792 7300

Any questions call 1300 361 967





Winter snows in Mount Canoblas National Park

## 12 Mullion Range State Conservation Area 1025 ha



**Highlights** The striking combination of steep mountains and plateau areas forms part of one of the Bathurst/Orange region's extinct volcano systems. Native animals include gliders, possums, numerous bird species, and platypus, which are well established in Summer Hill Creek.

**Activities** There are two picnic areas, El Dorado and Fourth Crossing. Take the Water Race walking track from Fourth Crossing to discover remnants of the area's 1860s goldmining boom. Two walks along Summer Hill Creek feature splendid waterfall views.

**Access** 17 km north-north-east of Orange via the Ophir Road.

Bathurst, 6332 9488

## 13 Munghorn Gap Nature Reserve 5934 ha



**Highlights** 164 species of bird have been recorded in the reserve, including the endangered regent honeyeater, attracting birdwatchers from around the state.

**Activities** The Castle Rock walking track offers an easy 8 km return walk with stunning views from the sandstone 'pagoda' rock formations at the end of the track. The Moolarben picnic area (day use only) has tables and barbecues and a toilet. Honeyeater Flat camping area provides toilets and barbecues; book through Mudgee for large groups.

**Access** 30 km north-east of Mudgee. Entry is via sealed roads off the Mudgee–Wollar Road.

Mudgee, 6372 7199

## 14 Nangar National Park 9196 ha



**Highlights** The horse-shoe shaped red silt-stone cliff lines of the Nangar-Murga range is a landmark of the central west's rolling plains. The rocky slopes running down to Terrara creek, forests rich in flowering shrubs and timbered hills form an important wildlife refuge in a landscape that has been largely cleared.

**Activities** Walks along the escarpment offer views out over patchwork farmland dotted with rocky remnants of natural bushland. There's car-based camping (no caravans), but no facilities. Many areas of the park are accessible by 2WD during dry periods, but 4WD is recommended for reaching the lookouts and in wet weather.

**Access** 50 km west of Orange. Best access is via the Eugowra–Orange road (turn off 10 km from Eugowra).

Forbes, 6851 4429

## When and where to find wildflowers

There's no single flowering season for Australian plants and at any time of the year there will always be some species in flower in different parks across the state.

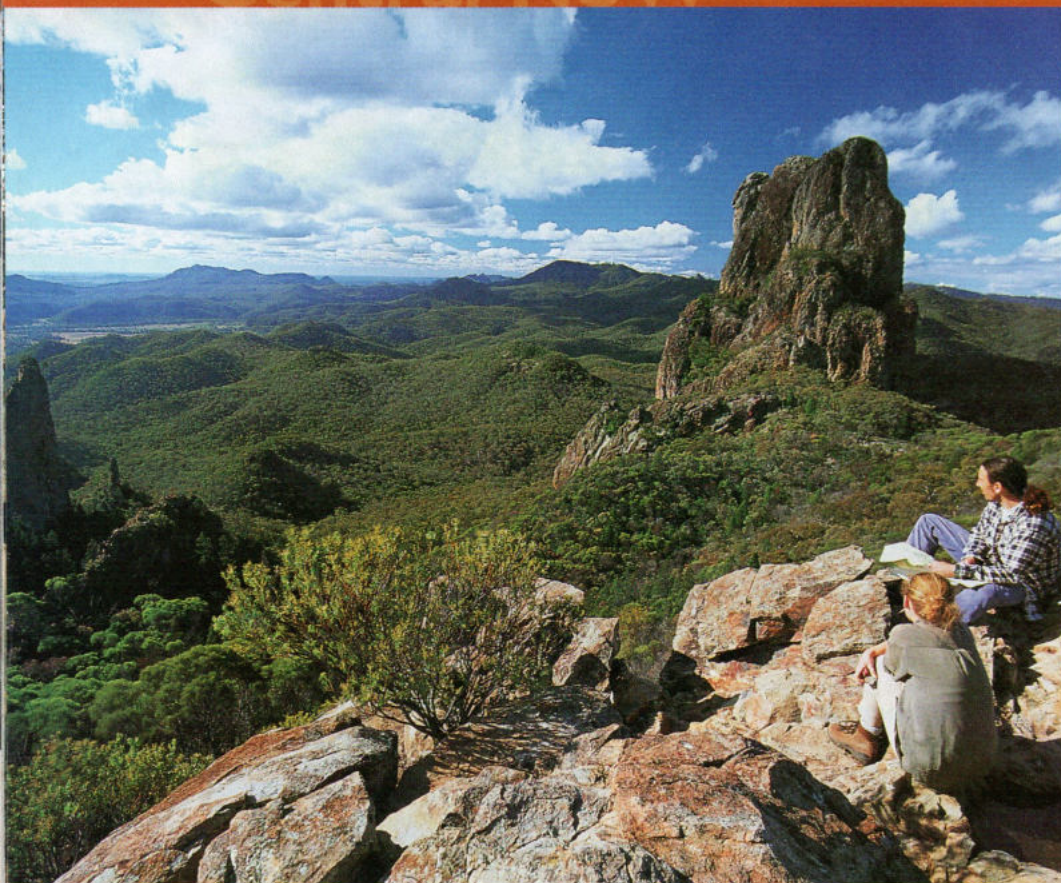
The most dazzling native flower displays generally occur in spring, but flowering dates depend on climate, elevation, distance from the coast and seasonal variations. Around Sydney between early June and early August you can see wildflowers on the heath-covered cliffs of Royal and Botany Bay national parks. By August and September the flowers are out in the northern Sydney reserves, such as Ku-ring-gai Chase and Garigal national parks. Waratahs, gylmea lilies and other native beauties bloom from around September in Heathcote National Park and the lower Blue Mountains, and around October in the

upper Blue Mountains. *Discovery* spring wildflower tours, run by the NPWS, are available in Blue Mountains National Park (phone 4787 8877 for details).

Alpine and subalpine flowers start to appear in Kosciuszko National Park as the snow begins to melt in November, reaching their peak in January and February. In September and October, the central parks such as Warrumbungle, Cocoparra, Mount Kaputar and Weddin Mountains come alive with colour. In the outback flowering often depends on irregular and infrequent rainfall, rather than the season. Plants in arid areas flower quickly following good rains, to take advantage of the available water.

Contact local NPWS offices (see back cover) for more information.





Looking towards the Grand High Tops, Warrumbungle National Park

## 15 The Rock Nature Reserve 347 ha



**Highlights** Known as Kengal to the local Wiradjuri people, The Rock towers 250 metres over the surrounding countryside, and is thought to have been a site for initiation ceremonies. The reserve is an island of natural habitat for native animals, including the turquoise parrot and glossy black cockatoo.

**Activities** If you're an energetic bushwalker you'll enjoy the climb to the top of the 3 km Yerong Nature Trail where, on a clear day, you can see Mt Kosciuszko and the Victorian Alps. The walk passes through a variety of vegetation communities, with signs guiding you through the changes and pointing out highlights. The recently refurbished picnic area on the lower slopes has toilets, a covered table, a gas barbecue area and a large carpark. There are no camping facilities but accommodation is available at The Rock village, other neighbouring towns or in Wagga Wagga.

**Access** 30 km south-west of Wagga Wagga off the Olympic Highway. A short all-weather, unsealed road connects the picnic facilities and carpark to the Lockhart Road.

Griffith, 6966 8100

Central NSW

## 16 Turon National Park, 2970 ha



NEW ENTRY

**Highlights:** The open eucalypt forest and river oaks of historic Turon valley were once the site of one of the state's major goldfields, and the area is rich in colonial and Aboriginal heritage. The river offers excellent trout fishing (licence required).

**Activities:** There are opportunities for remote bushwalking (no formal tracks) and bush camping (4WD accessible; no facilities). The river offers swimming and canoeing when the water is high.

**Access:** 150 km north west of Sydney, via Capertee on the Lochaber Road (unsealed 4WD).

Blackheath, 4787 8877

## 17 Warrumbungle National Park 23,198 ha



**Highlights** The combination of forested ridges, rocky spires and domes, deep gorges

and plenty of camping and visitor facilities make the Warrumbungles one of the state's most popular national parks.

**Activities** See ancient volcanic remnants from the Grand High Tops track, one of Australia's great walks. White Gum Look-out walk is a 1 km return bitumen track suitable for wheelchairs, with views of jutting peaks and the western plains. Gurianawa track (less than 1 km return loop suitable for wheelchairs), leads down to Spirey Creek and provides good views of the old volcanoes, Siding Spring Observatory and flats. Walking tracks vary widely in grade and length — several are easy and well formed while others are steep and rough.

The volcanic cliffs are popular for rock climbing (not permitted on The Breadknife; you'll need a permit elsewhere). Discovery walks, talks and tours are available in spring and autumn school holidays or to groups on request; these include walks to Tara Cave with a local Aboriginal guide, spotlight night walks, and children's activities. Camping is available at Camp Blackman, Pincham (walk-in) and several other sites. Book for large groups (phone 6825 4364). There are wheelchair-accessible toilets at Camp Blackman, Split Rock, the Woolshed and Canyon picnic area and showers at Camp Blackman.

**Access** 35 km west of Coonabarabran on John Renshaw Parkway, or 80 km north-east of Gilgandra via Gumin Road (unsealed section). \$6 per day vehicle entry fee.

Coonabarabran, 6842 1311 or 6825 4364

### Warrumbungle National Park Visitor Centre

Coonabarabran  
Ph: 6825 4364



The centre has information on the campgrounds, walking tracks, geology, flora and fauna of parks in the area. The shop sells guidebooks, posters, postcards, gifts, ice, camping supplies, refreshments, tea and coffee. The centre and toilets are wheelchair accessible. Open 7 days, 9 am to 4 pm (closed Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day).

Any questions call 1300 361 967



## 18 Weddin Mountains National Park 8361 ha



**Highlights** The striking crescent of cliffs and ridged gullies is reputed to be a bushrangers' haunt — Ben Hall cave is named for one of the area's most infamous rogues.

**Activities** Take in the panoramic views from Eualdrie Trig, or just enjoy the abundant birdlife the park has to offer. There's car-based camping at Seatons and Holy Camp (via unsealed roads), with non-powered caravan sites at Seatons.

**Access** 19 km south-west of Grenfell. There are clear signs off the Mid Western Highway.

Forbes, 6851 4429

### The Wildlife Shop, Bathurst

Level 2, 203–209 Russell Street, Bathurst Ph: 6332 9488

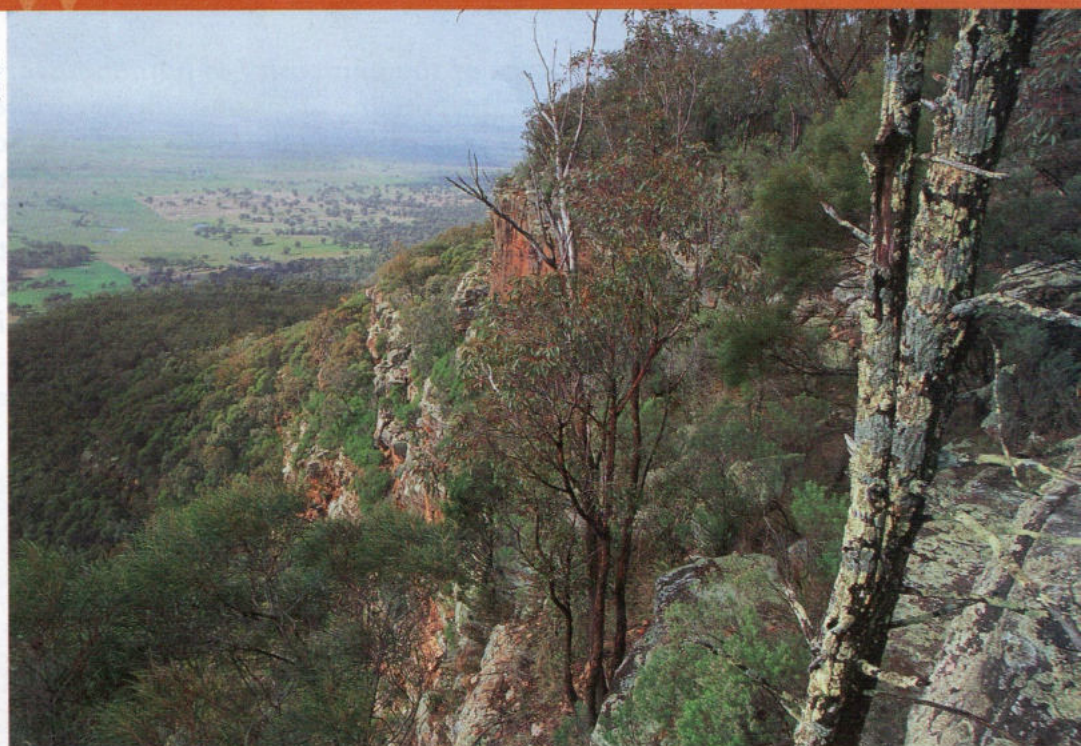


Situated off the main street, this shop has an information bay with park brochures, books, guides, T-shirts and a variety of Australian-made gifts for sale. Open Monday to Friday, 8.30 am to 4.30 pm (closed public holidays).

### The Wildlife Shop, Forbes

83 Lachlan Street, Forbes Ph: 6851 4429

Based in the main street, with brochures and information on NPWS parks and the local area. There's a good range of publications, gifts and souvenirs promoting conservation and catering to all ages. Open Monday to Friday, 8.30 am to 4.30 pm (closed public holidays).



Looking down from Eualdrie, Weddin Mountains National Park

## 19 Yuranighs Aboriginal Grave Historic Site 2 ha



**Highlights** Yuranigh guided surveyor Thomas Mitchell between 1845 and 1846 and the site of his grave is a unique combination of Aboriginal and European burial customs.

**Activities** The headstone (which was erected in 1900 when Mitchell's original

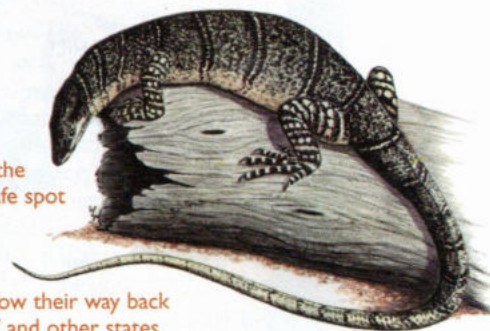
stone had fallen to the ground) is surrounded by four trees carved according to Wiradjuri tradition. There's a gate about 600 metres from the site; make sure you close it after you pass through.

**Access** 5 km south of Molong off the Mitchell Highway.

Bathurst, 6332 9488

### Lace monitor

A startled lace monitor, often called a goanna, will dart up the nearest tree at astonishing speed, spiralling upwards to a safe spot on the opposite side of the trunk from you. These massive lizards often protect their young by digging a hole in a termite nest and laying their eggs inside. The termites dutifully cover the hole, and the hatchlings are able to burrow their way back out. The lace monitor is found in eastern and central NSW, and other states.



## 4-wheel driving in parks and reserves

Many national parks across the state provide opportunities for vehicle touring, both for conventional cars and 4WDs. Before you leave, whether it's a 15-minute excursion or a whole-day trip, check with the local NPWS office (see back cover) about which roads you can use in and around parks you're interested in visiting. Remember that roads are sometimes closed for maintenance, safety or conservation reasons. Also bear in mind that many national parks and reserves have fragile landscapes that must be treated with care, so keeping to designated roads and tracks is absolutely essential (you may be fined if you don't).

There are also plenty of interesting bush drives in state forests and other areas outside national parks. For the information on all your options, get a copy of the *Best Bush* map. The map shows

all the areas managed by the NPWS, State Forests of NSW and the Department of Land and Water Conservation, detailing more than 1250 areas of bushland and the recreational activities available in each.

The *Best Bush* map is available for \$6 (postage and packing included) from NPWS Mail Order, PO Box 1967, Hurstville 2220, or via [www.bookshop.nsw.gov.au](http://www.bookshop.nsw.gov.au). Alternatively, drop in to the National Parks Centre at 102 George Street, The Rocks, or one of our visitor centres or offices (call first to check there are copies in stock).

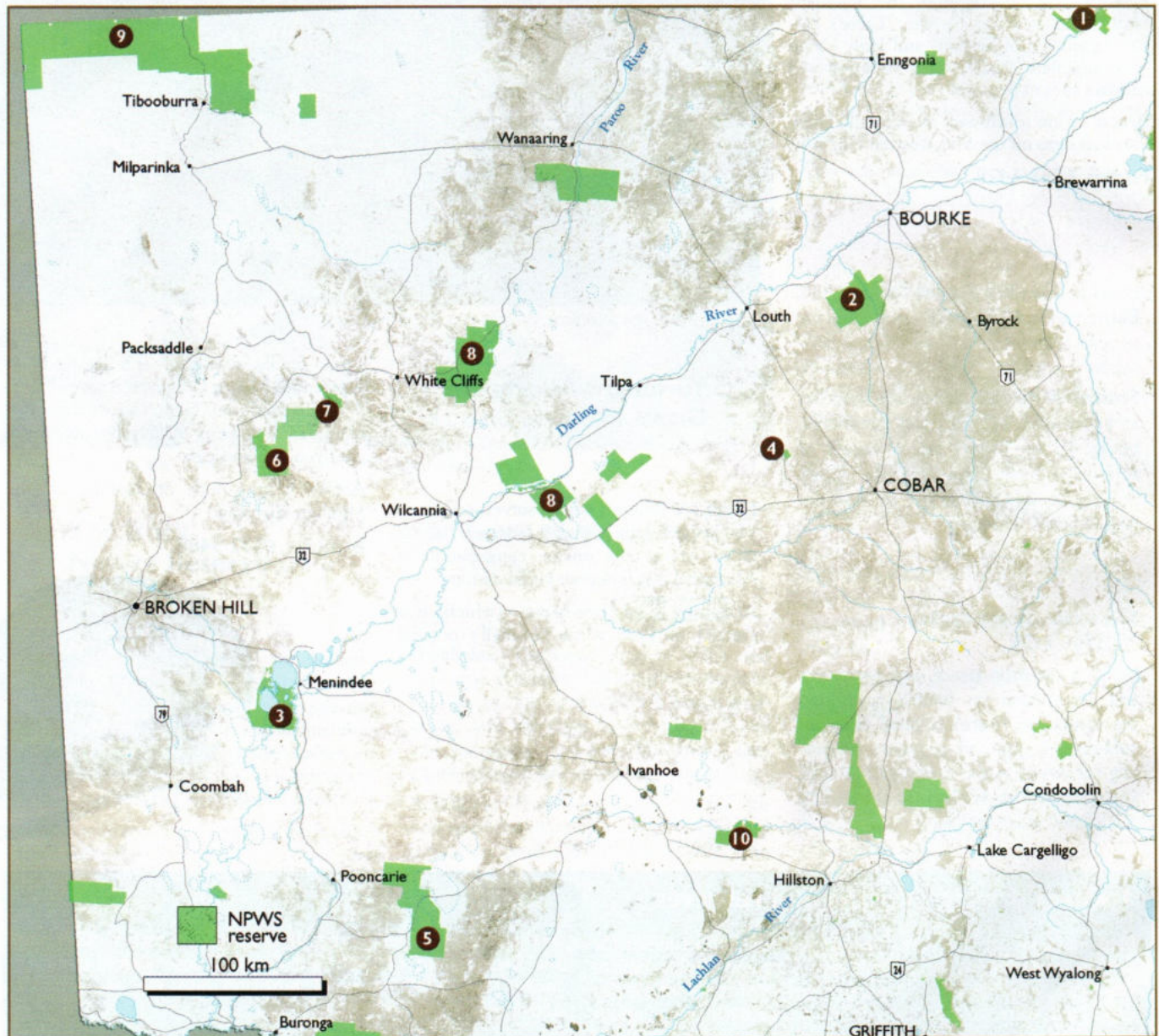
For information on minimising your impact on the environment when vehicle touring, see page 17 or visit our website.



# Outback NSW



*Outback NSW tells the story of the immensity of human history in a landscape of open desert, sparkling lakes and ancient stone sculpted by wind and time. Aboriginal rock art lines the caves and overhangs of Mt Grenfell and Mutawintji. The restored homestead at Willandra dates to the mid 19th century, and further west Mungo's woolshed was built by Chinese labour in the 1860s. Coolabah trees shade the creek beds, great red kangaroos roam the plains, birds flock to the precious wetlands and the new Paroo-Darling National Park spans two of the state's great rivers. Plants and animals survive long, dry periods, springing to abundant life after the rains. Visit [www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/outback](http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/outback)*



## 1 Culgoa National Park

22,006 ha



**Highlights** Sit under the shade of the coolibah trees flanking the floodplain of the Culgoa

river, watch the passing bustards, falcons, honeyeaters and cockatoos or the kangaroos and emus on the open grass plains.

**Activities** Walk along the riverbank through coolibah woodlands or over sandhills carpeted in wildflowers following spring rains. A small camping and picnic area, suitable for car-based and caravan camping,

is being developed along the river bank (few facilities, phone for details).

**Access** 100 km north of Brewarrina or 180 km north east of Bourke. Unsealed dry-weather roads only. Obtain directions before visiting the park.

**Bourke, 6872 2744**



## 2 Gundabooka National Park 63,903 ha



**Highlights** Mt Gundabooka rises to 500 m among the rust-coloured cliffs, gorges and hills of the Gundabooka Range. The region is of great significance to the local Ngemba people and the range has a history of ceremonial gatherings and rock art.

**Activities** Facilities are being developed. Dry Tank has a small camping and picnic area that's accessible by car and is large enough for a caravan. A 2.4 km walking track leads from the site through mulga woodlands to nearby Little Mountain, where you can look out over the northern escarpment of the Gundabooka Range. A new day-use area is being developed at Bennetts Tank which will ultimately be a stepping-off point for a trek to the top of Mt Gundabooka.

**Access** 50 km south of Bourke off the Kidman Way (dry weather only). You must book and obtain directions before visiting the park. Use of generators is not permitted.

Bourke, 6872 2744

### Staying safe in the outback

In outback regions you need to be particularly aware of safety:

- Tell someone your travel plans before setting out.
- Be prepared for unsealed roads that may be impassable after rain — check road conditions with local NPWS, Roads and Traffic Authority, National Roads and Motorists' Association and tourism offices before setting out (see back cover for NPWS contact details).
- Make sure your vehicle is in good mechanical condition, and always carry extra fuel, two spare tyres, and wheel-changing equipment.
- Take extra food and particularly extra WATER.
- If you break down or become stranded, remain with your vehicle.
- Avoid visiting in summer due to the extreme heat; visits are best planned for winter or spring.

For more safety tips see pages 8, 25, 32 and 47.

A Fox



Rock Wallaby habitat in Gundabooka National Park

## 3 Kinchega National Park 44,260 ha



**Highlights** An area of glittering lakes in a dry landscape, with waterbirds living among its backwaters and drowned forests. Massive river red gums gather at the banks of the Darling River, which forms the eastern boundary of the park.

**Activities** Explore the Aboriginal sites and European structures, such as the Kinchega Woolshed. Car-based or caravan camping is available at the rest area near Lake Cawndilla, beside Emu Lake or along the river. Camping fees apply. You can also stay in the old shearers' quarters (bookings required).

**Access** 111 km south-east of Broken Hill along the road to Menindee. Unsealed roads, closed when wet. \$6 per day vehicle fee.

Broken Hill, 08 8080 3200

## 4 Mount Grenfell Historic Site 1357 ha



**Highlights** Hundreds of Aboriginal paintings in reds, yellows and ochres colour the rock overhangs of Mt Grenfell.

**Activities** The three main art sites are within easy walking distance of the carpark, or take the 5 km Ngiyampaa walk, which reveals the breathtaking scenery of the area.

**Access** 40 km west of Cobar along the Barrier Highway, then 32 km of unsealed road north (impassable after rain).

Cobar, 6836 2692

## 5 Mungo National Park 88,637 ha



**Highlights** The Willandra Lakes World Heritage area, with Mungo National Park at its centre, maintains a continuous record of human occupation stretching back well over 60,000 years. Rain and wind has uncovered ancient fireplaces and hearths, as well as calcified plant matter, artefacts, stone tools and animal bones. At the 33 km long crescent of the Walls of China, erosion has sculpted the sand and clay into dramatic formations.

**Activities** The visitor centre is open every day. A self-guided 70 km driving tour provides an opportunity to explore a large area of the park. Stay at the shearers' quarters (bookings required) or one of two car-based camping areas (with room for caravans). A wheelchair-accessible boardwalk gives access to views of the Walls of China. Short walking tracks have signs that highlight a variety of features within the park.

**Access** 110 km north-east of Mildura via Buronga along the Arumpo Road, or 147 km north-west of Balranald. All roads are unsealed and are impassable after rain. A detailed information package is available from the office or the NPWS website. \$6 per day vehicle entry fee.

Buronga, 03 5021 8900



## 6 Mutawintji Historic Site

486 ha



**Highlights** The site, which in 1998 was the first to be returned to its traditional Aboriginal owners, contains one of the best collections of Aboriginal rock art in NSW.

**Activities** Entry is by Mutawintji Local Aboriginal Land Council guided tour, leaving the campsite at 11 am on Saturdays and Wednesdays from April to October. Contact the Broken Hill Tourist Information Centre (08 8087 6077) for information on commercial tour operators with access to the site. Walking tracks are of medium-grade and unsuitable for wheelchairs.

**Access** 130 km north-east of Broken Hill; turn east off the road to Tibooburra. In wet weather the road closes, so check on conditions before travelling.

Broken Hill, 08 8080 3200

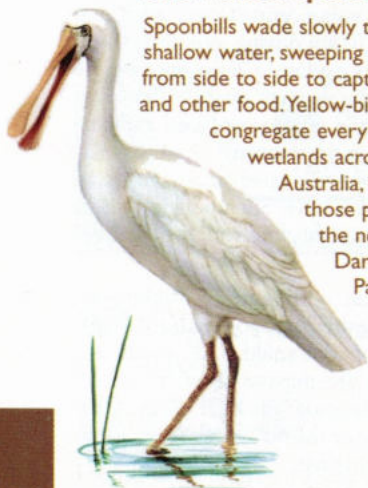
## 7 Mutawintji National Park 68,912 ha



**Highlights** The rugged, mulga-clad Byngnango Range is dissected by colourful gorges, rockpools and creek beds lined with red gums. Scattered among the caves and overhangs are galleries of Aboriginal rock art and engravings. The park was returned to its traditional owners in 1998 and is held on their behalf by the Mutawintji Local Aboriginal Land Council.

### Yellow-billed spoonbill

Spoonbills wade slowly through shallow water, sweeping their long bills from side to side to capture insects and other food. Yellow-billed spoonbills congregate every year at wetlands across most of Australia, including those protected at the new Paroo-Darling National Park.



Kinchega National Park after rain

**Activities** Car-based and caravan camping are available at Homestead Creek (no bookings — first in, first served; no fuel or firewood available). Backpack camping is permitted within the Mutawintji Wilderness Area, with self-registration required (forms available from the Broken Hill NPWS office). Camping fees apply at the campsite. An Aboriginal Discovery Program featuring bush tucker, billy tea, Aboriginal art and kids' activities runs during all school holiday periods except summer.

**Access** 130 km north-east of Broken Hill; turn east off the road to Tibooburra. In wet weather the road closes, so check on conditions before travelling.

Broken Hill, 08 8080 3200

## 8 Paroo-Darling National Park and State Conservation Area 230,000 ha

**NEW ENTRY**

**Highlights** The west's newest park has a wide range of ever-changing landscapes, including the perennial lakes of the Paroo Overflow, the floodplains of the central Darling River and active mound springs that support an endangered ecological community and the salt pipewort.

**Activities** Facilities are still pretty basic, but you can drive through the park, stopping to observe the abundant wildlife, or walk one of the many tree-lined creeks. Over 75 km of public-access roads traverse the park.

Development is ongoing so phone for updates on available facilities.

**Access** The park is in a number of separate sections and can be accessed from several points; 80 km north of Wilcannia along the Wanaaring Road; 60 km east of Wilcannia along the Bourke Road; 20 km east of White Cliffs along the Mandalay Road or 80 km east of Wilcannia along the Barrier Highway. Roads closed when wet.

Broken Hill, 08 8080 3200

## 9 Sturt National Park 310,634 ha



**Highlights:** An enormous arid landscape of space and solitude. The rolling red-sand dunes of the Strzelecki desert ripple through the western section, graduating past surprising wetlands surrounded by white sands. Flat-topped mesas and fantastic views characterise the central Jump-Up country. Remnant gidgee woodland, the catchment system of the ephemeral Twelve-Mile Creek and gibber and grass-covered plains dominate the east, while 450 million year old granite tors surrounding Tibooburra form part of the southern boundary of the park.

**Activities:** Enjoy the self-guided loop drives accessible by 2WD or go 4WD trekking along the Middle Road, passing through uniquely diverse landscape with lookouts along the way providing magnificent views.

Any questions call 1300 361 967





The dingo fence, Sturt National Park

Explore the walks at Fort Grey, Olive Downs, Dead Horse Gully and to the Mt Wood summit — most are easy to moderate and allow for a short loop walk of 1 to 3 hours. The four 2WD-accessible campsites are equipped with free gas barbecues and toilets. But bring your own water and please respect the 'no wood-fire' policy. Camping fees apply. Mt Wood Historic Homestead and Shearers' Quarters are available for accommodation; both have kitchen and bathroom facilities;

The best time to visit is between April and October. The temperature sizzles to 50° C in summer, but winter nights can drop to below zero!

**Access** 335 km north of Broken Hill along the partly sealed Silver City highway and 400 km west of Bourke (unsealed). Check the conditions after rain as roads may be closed. \$6 per day vehicle entry fee.

Tibooburra Area Visitor Centre,  
08 8091 3308

**Tibooburra Area Office  
and Visitor Centre**

Briscoe Street  
Tibooburra  
08 8091 3308

Take a sneak preview of Sturt National Park and the surrounding area's natural and cultural history. Heritage items from the area's pastoral and mining history are showcased next door in the old Tibourra Courthouse Museum (free entry). Walking track guides, tour drive guides, displays and road and weather condition updates are available. Open 5 days between 8:30 am and 4:30 pm except during school holidays, when the office is open 7 days. The office is closed on Christmas Day.

## 10 Willandra National Park

19,386 ha



**Highlights** Willandra Station was once famous for its wool, and these days it offers an insight into the pastoral history of the region. The homestead, surrounded by gardens and overlooking peaceful Willandra Creek, has been restored to its former glory and is now available for accommodation. The grasslands and coolibah-lined creek beds to the west of the homestead are home to kangaroos, emus and ground-nesting birds.

**Activities** Wander around the homestead and gardens, shearing shed, ram shed and other historic buildings. Watch the waterbirds and kangaroos, or the sun setting over huge horizons. Car-based and caravan camping is available near the homestead, or you can stay in a range of historic buildings, including the Cottage, Men's Quarters and the homestead (bookings required, phone 6966 8100). Camping and accommodation fees apply.

**Access** 64 km north-west of Hillston off Mossgiel Road (unsealed, and impassable after rain). \$6 per day vehicle entry fee.

Griffith, 6966 8100

### Painted dragon

The painted dragon's back is an artistic mixture of blue-greys and rusty browns, with splotches of cream and dark brown. But this fast-moving lizard really earns its name during the mating season, when the underside of breeding males turns to bright orange and blue. The painted dragon is found in western NSW and other states.



## Other parks around Australia

There are many more national parks and reserves to explore than you'll find in this guide, both in NSW and across Australia. There are also popular parks in NSW not managed by the NPWS. The following contact details should help you find what you're looking for.

## OTHER PARKS IN NSW

All NPWS parks (National Parks Centre):  
1300 361 967

Centennial Park (Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust): 9339 6699, [www.cp.nsw.gov.au](http://www.cp.nsw.gov.au)

Bicentennial Park (Sydney Olympic Park Authority): 9714 7300, [www.bcp.nsw.gov.au](http://www.bcp.nsw.gov.au)

Parramatta Park (managed by Parramatta Park Trust): 8833 5000, [www.ppt.nsw.gov.au](http://www.ppt.nsw.gov.au)

**ENVIRONMENT AUSTRALIA**

(For federally managed national parks and reserves, such as Kakadu, Uluru, Booderee and Norfolk Island)  
02 6274 1111, [www.ea.gov.au](http://www.ea.gov.au)

**AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

(For Namadgi National Park and Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve)

Environment ACT

PO Box 144, Lyneham ACT 2602

02 6207 9777, [www.environment.act.gov.au](http://www.environment.act.gov.au)

## NORTHERN TERRITORY

Parks and Wildlife Commission  
PO Box 496, Palmerston NT 0831  
08 8999 5511, [www.nt.gov.au/ipe/paw](http://www.nt.gov.au/ipe/paw)  
(For Kakadu and Uluru see Environment  
Australia)

## QUEENSLAND

Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service  
PO Box 155, Brisbane Albert St  
QLD 4002  
07 3227 8186,  
[www.epa.qld.gov.au/environment/park](http://www.epa.qld.gov.au/environment/park)

## SOUTH AUSTRALIA

SA National Parks and Wildlife Service  
GPO Box 1047 Grenfell St, Adelaide  
SA 5001  
08 8204 1910,  
[www.environment.sa.gov.au/parks](http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/parks)

## TASMANIA

Parks and Wildlife Service  
GPO Box 44, Hobart TAS 7001  
1300 368 550, [www.parks.tas.gov.au](http://www.parks.tas.gov.au)

## VICTORIA

**Parks Victoria**  
Level 10, 535 Bourke St, Melbourne 3000  
13 19 63 (for cost of local call Australia wide)  
[www.parkweb.vic.gov.au](http://www.parkweb.vic.gov.au)

## WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Dept of Conservation and Land Management  
Locked Bag 104, Bentley Delivery Centre  
WA 6983  
08 9334 0333, [www.naturebase.net](http://www.naturebase.net)



# Save time and money with an **annual pass**

## A GREAT GIFT IDEA



**I**t only takes a few visits to NSW national parks to discover that you are much better off with an annual pass. It's more convenient and more economical, and you can choose the most suitable pass for you.

	One-year pass	Two-year pass
<b>Single Country Park Pass</b>		
any ONE designated national park in country* NSW except Kosciuszko	\$20	\$35
<b>Country Parks Pass</b>		
all national parks in country* NSW except Kosciuszko	\$40	\$70
<b>Multi-Park Pass</b>		
all parks except Kosciuszko	\$60	\$105
<b>All Parks Pass</b>		
all parks in NSW**	\$80	\$140

\* Single Country Park and Country Parks passes are not valid in parks charging vehicle entry fees in the Sydney area east of the Hawkesbury-Nepean River.

\*\* Additional All Parks Pass: you can also obtain a 50% discount on additional passes for cars registered at the same address. Contact the National Parks Centre.

NSW Seniors Card holders are entitled to a 20% discount on all annual passes. NSW Pensioner Concession Card holders and NSW EDA, Intermediate and Special Rate pensioners are entitled to an exemption card that gives them free entry into all NSW national parks. Contact the National Parks Centre for more information about these discounts and exemptions.

### Cheaper and more convenient

If your favourite country park has a vehicle entry fee of \$6 per day it may well be worth buying a Single Country Park Pass for \$20. Or, if you visit a number of parks each year, an All Parks Pass at \$80 may be best for you (see table below). Once you've bought your annual pass you won't need to pay as you enter a park.

### Comparison with daily fees

Daily vehicle entry fees vary from park to park. Many parks and reserves have no entry fee, but the popular parks such as Kosciuszko, Royal and Ku-ring-gai Chase do have a fee, which varies from \$6 to \$15. How much you save depends on which parks you visit and how often you visit them. Remember that if you stay for more than one day you must pay a vehicle entry fee for each day (unless you have an annual pass).

### Are camping fees included?

No. Camping, museum, Discovery and other fees are extra, so you will need to pay them even if you have an annual pass or have paid the daily vehicle entry fee.

### What is the money used for?

Your support directly assists the upkeep of facilities, running of conservation programs, pest control and protection of historic sites.

### How can I get an annual pass?

You can order an annual pass by mail, fax, phone or online—see the coupon below for all these options. You can also drop in to any major NPWS visitor centre and buy a pass.

Name:.....  
Mr/Mrs/Ms/Other First name Surname

Address:.....

Suburb State Postcode Phone

### Yes I would like to order an annual pass:

1 year 2 year (Please tick:)  
☐ \$20 ☐ \$35 Single Country Park Pass\*

Designated park:.....  
Check in this guide for fee-charging parks

☐ \$40 ☐ \$70 Country Parks Pass\*  
☐ \$60 ☐ \$105 Multi-Park Pass  
☐ \$80 ☐ \$140 All Parks Pass

Vehicle registration number to appear on annual pass: .....

### Method of payment:

☐ Cheque. Please make your cheque or money order payable to National Parks & Wildlife Service.  
☐ Credit card. Please charge my card as indicated. ☐ Visa ☐ Bankcard ☐ MasterCard

Name on card:.....

Cardholder's signature:..... Expiry date \_\_/\_\_/\_\_

Card number .....

Card number

### Options:

- Mail this form to the National Parks Centre enclosing a cheque or credit card details
- Fax the form to the National Parks Centre with credit card details
- Phone the National Parks Centre (have your credit card details ready)
- Order online—[www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au](http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au)
- Take this form to the National Parks Centre or major NPWS visitor centres

National Parks Centre, PO Box N429, Grosvenor Place NSW 1220 (102 George Street, The Rocks, Sydney); ph 1300 361 967 or 02 9253 4600; fax 9251 9192



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## Abbreviations

NP—National Park  
NR—Nature Reserve

SCA—State Conservation Area  
HS—Historic Site  
AA—Aboriginal Area

MP—Marine Park  
RP—Regional Park

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# Contact us



## **NATIONAL PARKS CENTRE SYDNEY CITY**

102 George St, The Rocks, Ph: 1300 361 967  
or 02 9253 4600  
Email: [info@npws.nsw.gov.au](mailto:info@npws.nsw.gov.au)  
Website: [www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au](http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au)

## **NORTHERN RIVERS**

### **ALSTONVILLE**

Colonial Arcade  
75 Main St, Ph: 6627 0200

### **GRAFTON**

Level 3, 49 Victoria St, Ph: 6641 1500

### **KYOGLE**

136 Summerland Way, Ph: 6632 0000

### **LORD HOWE ISLAND**

Lord Howe Island Board, Ph: 6563 2066

### **Murwillumbah**

Cnr Alma St. & Tweed Valley Way  
(shared with World Heritage Rainforest Centre)  
Ph: 6672 6360

## **NEW ENGLAND TABLELANDS**

### **ARMIDALE**

85-87 Faulkner St, Ph: 6776 0000

### **GLEN INNES**

68 Church St, Ph: 6732 5133

### **WALCHA**

188VV North St, Ph: 6777 1400

## **HUNTER & MID NORTH COAST**

### **ARAKOON**

Arakoon State Recreation Area  
Cardwell St, Ph: 6566 6621

### **BULGA**

Hunter Range Office  
2156 Putty Rd, Ph: 6574 5275

### **COFFS HARBOUR**

32 Marina Drive, Ph: 6652 0900

### **DORRIGO**

Dorrigo Rainforest Centre  
Dome Rd, Ph: 6657 2309

### **MUDGEES**

Shop 1, 160 Church St, Ph: 6372 7199

### **NELSON BAY**

12b Teramby Rd, Ph: 4984 8200

### **PACIFIC PALMS**

Booti Booti National Park, Ph: 6591 0300

### **PORT MACQUARIE**

152 Horton St, Ph: 6586 8300

### **SCONE**

137 Kelly Street, Ph: 6540 2300

## **SYDNEY & SURROUNDS**

### **AUDLEY**

Visitor Centre  
Royal National Park  
Farnell Ave, Ph: 9542 0648

### **BLACKHEATH**

The Heritage Centre  
Govetts Leap Rd, Ph: 4787 8877, Fx: 4787 8514

### **FORESTVILLE**

Garigal National Park  
Ferguson St, Ph: 9451 3479

### **GOSFORD**

Suites 36-38, 207 Albany St North  
Ph: 4320 4280 Camp bookings: 4320 4203

### **HARTLEY**

Hartley Historic Site, Ph: 6355 2117

### **HORNSBY**

Kalkari Visitor Centre  
Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park  
Mt Colah, Ph: 9472 9300  
or Bobbin Head Information Centre  
Ph: 9472 8949

### **KURNELL**

The Discovery Centre  
Botany Bay National Park  
Cape Solander Drive, Ph: 9668 9111

### **LAKE MUNMORAH**

Elizabeth Bay Drive, Ph: 4358 0400

### **LANECOVE**

Lane Cove National Park  
Lady Game Drive, Ph: 9412 1811

### **PARRAMATTA**

Level 1, 10 Valentine Ave, Ph: 9895 7420

### **RICHMOND**

Bowmans Cottage  
370 Windsor St, Ph: 4588 5247

### **SYDNEY HARBOUR/LA PEROUSE**

(For Sydney Harbour National Park, and  
Bare Island Fort and La Perouse in  
Botany Bay National Park.)  
Sydney Harbour National Park  
Information Centre  
Cadmans Cottage, 110 George St,  
The Rocks, Ph: 9247 5033

### **WINDSOR**

Scheyville National Park  
Scheyville Rd, Ph: 4572 3100

### **WOLLONGONG**

4/55 Kembla St, Ph: 4225 1455

## **SOUTH COAST & HIGHLANDS**

### **BOMBALA**

153 Maybe St, Ph: 6458 4080

### **BUNGONIA**

Bungonia State Recreation Area  
Lookdown Rd, Ph: 4844 4277  
(Infoline 4844 4341)

### **FITZROY FALLS**

Nowra Rd, Ph: 4887 7270

## **JINDABYNE**

Snowy Region Visitor Information Centre  
Kosciuszko Rd, Ph: 6450 5600

## **KHANCOBAN**

Khancoban Information Centre  
Scott St, Ph: 6076 9373

## **MERIMBULA**

Cnr Merimbula and  
Sapphire Coast drives, Ph: 6495 5000

## **MINNAMURRA**

Minnamurra Rainforest Centre  
Minnamurra Falls Rd  
via Jamberoo, Ph: 4236 0469

## **NAROOMA**

Cnr Field St & Princes Hwy, Ph: 4476 2888

## **NOWRA**

55 Graham St, Ph: 4423 2170

## **QUEANBEYAN**

6 Rutledge St, Ph: 6299 2929

## **TUMUT**

7 Adelong Rd, Ph: 6947 7025

## **YARRANGOBILLY CAVES**

7 km off Snowy Mountains Hwy, Ph: 6454 9597

## **CENTRAL NSW**

### **BATHURST**

The Wildlife Shop  
Level 2, 203-209 Russell St, Ph: 6332 9488

### **COONABARABRAN**

30 Timor St, Ph: 6842 1311  
or Visitor Centre  
Warrumbungle National Park, Ph: 6825 4364

### **FORBES**

83 Lachlan St, Ph: 6851 4429

### **GRIFFITH**

200 Yambil St, Ph: 6966 8100

### **HILL END**

Hill End Visitor Centre, Ph: 6337 8206

### **MUDGEES**

1/160 Church St, Ph: 6372 7199

### **NARRABRI**

Level 1, 100 Maitland St, Ph: 6792 7300

### **OVERON**

38 Ross St, Ph: 6336 1972

## **OUTBACK NSW**

### **BOURKE**

51 Oxley St, Ph: 6872 2744

### **BROKEN HILL**

183 Argent St, Ph: 08 8080 3200

### **BURONGA**

Cnr Sturt Hwy & Melaleuca St  
Ph: 03 5021 8900

### **COBAR**

16-19 Barton St, Ph: 6836 2692

### **TIBOOBURRA**

Briscoe St, Ph: 08 8091 3308

## **HEAD OFFICE**

43 Bridge St, Hurstville, Ph: 9585 6444

For more information on your national parks and the activities available in them, you can phone the National Parks Centre for the price of a local call (mobiles excluded), by dialling:

**1300 361 967**, or visiting [www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au](http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au)